Another former employee sues IPI. PAGE 4
Torres stands firm on decision to hire Castro. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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On-arrival COVID-19 test scrapped

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is scrapping COVID-19 tests for all passengers arriving in the Commonwealth, whether by airplane or ship, as it shifts its focus away from border surveillance.

In a statement yesterday, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said it is now prioritizing care for medically significant community infections. Therefore, effective yesterday, all incoming travelers will no

See SCRAPPED on Page 4

» Border surveillance no longer top priority
» Unvaccinated travelers required to test five days after arrival

IN BRIEF

- Travelers entering the CNMI will no longer be tested on arrival.
- Travelers must complete mandatory health declaration form and upload vaccination card.
- Unvaccinated travelers should quarantine at home for five days and wear a mask if around others and will be tested five days after arrival.

OAG sues DPS chief over allegedly illegal OT

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan has filed a lawsuit in Superior Court against Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero for the allegedly excessive overtime compensa-

Guerrero

See OAG on Page 4

230 new cases hikes CNMI total to 6,332

The CNMI's total number of COVID-19 cases has climbed to 6,332 after the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reported late Monday an additional 230 cases.

CHCC stated in the news release that the 230 cases were identified on Feb. 6, with 186 of them identified via contact tracing, 36 via community testing, and eight via travel testing. Of this new number,

See 230 on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:05pm, Feb. 8, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 99.8%

Days since last community transmission: 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,820
Fully Vaccinated:	36,704
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,322
Fully Vaccinated:	5,165
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,131

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	36,612	844	37,456
Recovered	30,592	673	31,265
Active	5,048	844	5,892
Deaths	298	1	299

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,102	230	6,332
Traced via Travel Screening	608	8	616
Traced via Community Screening	5,494	222	5,716
Deaths	23	0	23

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- **Green:** Safest

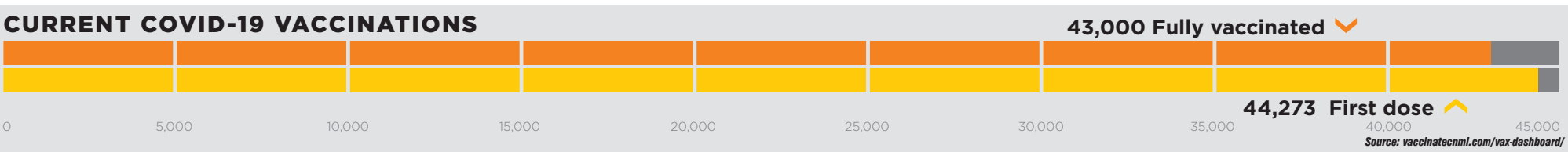
Source: Office of the Governor

IN APPRECIATION

KRIZEL TUAZON

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, joins Japanese Consul Kazuhiko Ono and his wife, Masako Ono, as well as special assistant to the mayor Henry Hofschneider, right, for a commemorative picture after presenting the couple with plaques of recognition at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room yesterday. The plaques are intended to express Apatang's appreciation for the couple's work in the CNMI. The Onos, who arrived in the CNMI in May 2019, will be leaving the CNMI later this month for Consul Ono's new assignment in Taiwan.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

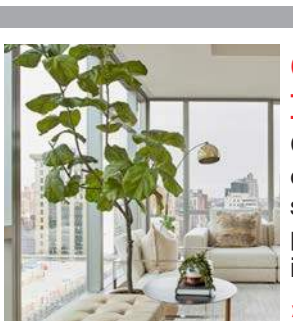


Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
Shine Vizcarra wins the crown in the Bayani Associations' "Queen of Drag 2022" pageant.

Page 13



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
Often adding living or green elements such as trees and plants can help invigorate a room.

» PAGE x

LIFE & STYLE
The Kardashians are promising an all-access pass into their lives, again, with a new reality series.

Page 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Commonwealth Election Commission administrative specialist Ambrosio Joaquin "AJ" Lisua, left, checks the information on a computer as CEC employees prepare for a series of voter registration drive for the Nov. 8 general election.

CEC starts series of voter registration drives for Nov. 8 polls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of yesterday, there were already 17,514 registered voters in the CNMI and the Commonwealth Election Commission wants to boost that number by kicking off a series of voter registration drives for the Nov. 8 general election.

» 17,514 registered voters so far as of yesterday

At the November 2020 general election, CEC reported a total of 18,519 registered voters in the Commonwealth.

CEC administrative specialist Ambrosio Joaquin "AJ" Lisua said yesterday that they began the voter registration drive last Saturday at the Tanapag Youth Center, but only six voters registered.

Lisua said they are hoping to get more people to register at the next voter registration this Saturday at the Kagman Community Center, which will take place from 9am to 3pm.

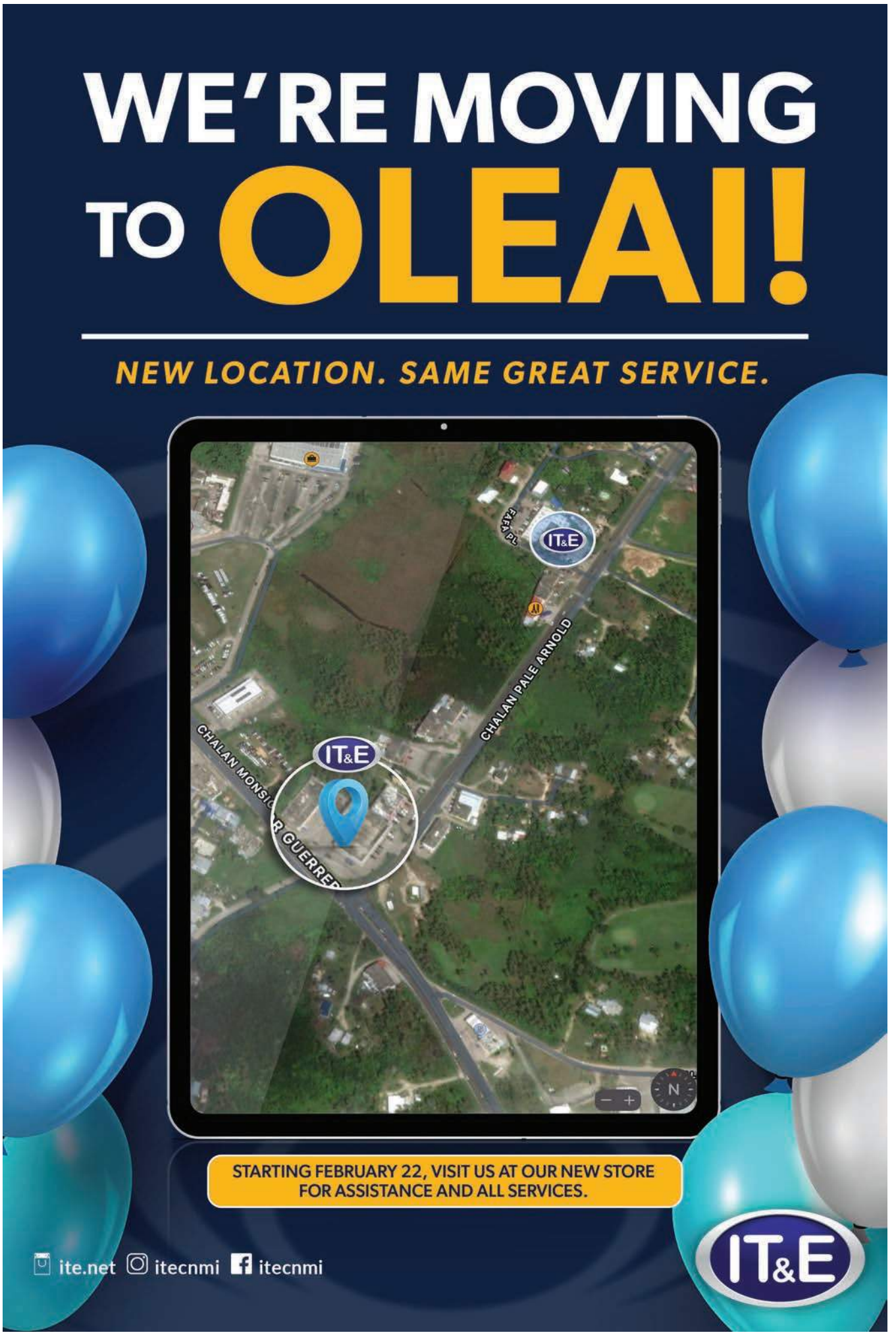
After that, the next registration drive will be at the Carolinian Utt Pavilion in Garapan on Feb. 19 and at the San Vicente Center on Feb. 26, also from 9am to 3pm.

Lisua said they are doing the voter registrations in villages to help those who have problems with transportation and other issues.

Lisua said they will also be doing registration drives on Tinian and Rota, possibly next month.

CEC staff members also visit a house to register upon a voter's request.

Previously registered voters who have failed to vote in the 2018 and 2020 general elections must re-register to be eligible to vote in the Nov. 8, 2022, election, according to CEC.



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NOAA initiates five-year review of marine sanctuary nomination of Mariana Trench

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has initiated a review of the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary nomination, set to expire on March 13, 2022, after five years in the sanctuary nomination inventory. NOAA has not initiated a designation process for this site.

The purpose of the five-year review is to determine if the nomination remains accurate and responsive to the 11 criteria on national significance and management considerations.

NOAA has consulted with the nominating party and is now accepting public comments to gather new or updated information. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will then determine if the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary nomination will remain in the inventory for an additional five years.

Written comments must be received by Feb. 22, 2022. Comments may be entered on the Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov. Submit electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal and search for Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2022-0005.

To comment by mail: Kristina Kekuewa, Pacific Islands Regional Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.

To comment by email: Kristina.Kekuewa@noaa.gov.

NOAA will conduct a virtual meeting on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, from 10am to 12pm ChST (Guam/Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)/Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, from 2pm to 4pm HST (Hawaii). NOAA may end the meeting before the time noted above if all those participating have completed their oral comments.

Register online for the Feb. 12 virtual public meeting: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7938457880255887375

For more information about the nomination or five-year review process, visit nominate.noaa.gov. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy blessed birthday to Arsenia "Arce" Benavente, who celebrated her special day on Feb. 8! Cheers to you and many more and may you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Know that you are loved and greatly appreciated. Much love coming from your entire family and friends.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SINMI's monthly meeting

The Soroptimist International Chapter of the Northern Mariana Islands will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Thursday, Feb. 10, at noon at the 360 Restaurant.

Join us to help continue our work for the "Best for Women" in the CNMI! The club is also accepting new members. Come and meet us and see what we are all about! ***(PR)***

Public warned of rip currents

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents through Wednesday afternoon on Saipan. Tinian, and Rota.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center's State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present along east facing reefs of the Marianas through this evening.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Heights show seas increasing, as the shear line from the north continues to descend across the Marianas. The combination of northeasterly winds could make surf hazardous along north facing reefs tonight.

The public is reminded to stay out of the water along east facing reefs. Elsewhere, swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

Public warned of rough seas

The public is being warned that sea conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center's State Warning Point, a small craft advisory remains in effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until 6pm today, Wednesday

Northeast winds of 20 to 25 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots, plus seas rising to 8 to 10 feet are expected on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota coastal waters until 6pm Wednesday.

Winds will remain fresh to strong and seas will continue to be hazardous to small craft due to the descending shear line from the north and another shear line ascending from the southeast.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in hazardous conditions. ***(PR)***

Scheduled water service interruption in Lower Dandan, Airport Road, Koblerville, portions of Kannat Tabla, As Lito, As Perdido

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Lower Dandan, Airport Road, Koblerville, and portions of Kannat Tabla, As Lito and As Perdido (from Saint Jude Catholic Church to ABCD Market and Tottotville).

The scheduled water service interruption is necessary to allow CUC's water operators to repair a 6-inch transmission water line break near Islander Rent-a-Car (Marfega Building) along Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road. Water service to the affected areas is anticipated to be completed by 4:30pm. Customers are advised to allow one to two hours for the system pressure to stabilize.

Motorists are advised to take alternative routes as a portion of the road will be closed for the duration of the leak repair.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Feb. 10 - Federal Contract Opportunities - SAM.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to use the website to ensure you do not miss any opportunities. Types of opportunities, search filters, and search strategies will be discussed.

■ Feb. 17 - Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment - Department of Defense vendors use the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system to create, submit, and track their invoices. We will show you how to setup an account and submit an invoice so you get paid on time.

■ Feb. 24 - Federal Contracting Responsibilities - Department of Defense vendors need to protect themselves from cyber attacks. We will discuss DOD's current requirements as well as the upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC 2.0).

To register, visit: www.guamptac.com. ***(PR)***

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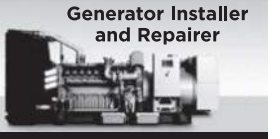

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Accountant – SDA-2022-01
Saipan, CNMI

Accountant, Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School Saipan, CNMI

Prepares annual budget for board approval. Overall in-charge on the accounting and administrative operation of the company. Report to the board of directors regarding the finances of the company on a monthly basis. Prepare, examine and analyze accounting records, financial statements, or other financial report to assess accuracy, completeness and in conformity to reporting and procedural US GAAP standards. Analyze business operations, trends, cost, revenue, financial commitments, and obligation to project future revenues and expenses. Compute the taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other requirements. Review and Analyze monthly billing for all students. Responsible in the monitoring and supervision of Registrar and Office/PR assistant in the daily business operation of the school.

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Name: Anicia Louise Ignacio Kisa
Saipan, MP 96950

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition to Correct Anicia Louise Ignacio Kisa Petitioner) FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0038 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 16, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Another former employee sues IPI

Another former employee of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has filed a complaint against the casino investor in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Xiao Rongkun, a construction engineer with a disability, has filed a lawsuit against the casino investor alleging wrongful termination and retaliation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Xiao, through Collin Thompson, is asking the court for a jury trial in his complaint and is seeking full back pay, benefits, and reinstatement to a position he would have obtained in the absence of discrimination or, in the alternative, front pay.

In addition, Xiao wants the court to award him an undetermined amount of damages and future economic and non-economic losses as well as reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

Last Nov. 17, 2021, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued Xiao a right to sue pursuant to the discrimination charges he filed against IPI.

"Xiao exhausted all available administrative remedies in accord with the law prior to instituting this civil action," the lawyer stated.

According to the complaint Xiao was employed by IPI and worked as a site engineer at the hotel and casino project in Garapan on or about March 17, 2016.

In November 2018, he severely injured his spine, causing paralysis. He suffered a permanent disability and now relies on a wheelchair for mobility.

However, despite his disability, Xiao remained willing and able to perform the essential functions of his job with IPI.

In January 2020, Xiao requested accommodation from IPI based on the recommendation of his doctors but IPI allegedly refused to provide any accommodation.

Instead, Thompson said, IPI retaliated against Xiao because of his disability by offering him a take-it-or-leave-it demotion. "The demotion included a reduced salary to less than half his previous pay. Xiao did not accept IPI's proposal. IPI then targeted Xiao for termination," Thompson said.

Then, on March 30, 2020, Xiao alleges that in retaliation for his requested accommodation and/or because his disability, IPI placed him on furlough, then hired an "able-bodied" person to take his job.

"IPI abandoned Xiao and its obligations under federal law," Thompson stated.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Thompson argued, Xiao is a qualified individual with a disability. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

OAG

From Page 1

tion he received from Super Typhoon Yutu recovery.

According to Manibusan in court papers, Guerrero was not entitled to overtime and so should be directed to return all the money he was paid in overtime.

"Guerrero, a Commonwealth government employee, was not entitled to typhoon emergency premium compensation, overtime, or extra pay for work performed during the declared major disaster and state of significant emergency relating to Super Typhoon Yutu, or for work directly involved with typhoon recovery and repair work and providing assistance to those members of the Commonwealth adversely affected by Super Typhoon Yutu," Manibusan said. "Defendant should be ordered to return the unlawful compensation to the Commonwealth treasury."

In his lawsuit, as relief, Manibusan is asking the court to issue a judgment of $46,982.96 for recovery of unlawful typhoon premium payments, overtime payments, or extra payments not authorized by law, without valid appropriation, and in excess of the salary ceiling.

Aside from returning the money, the AG also asks the court to issue a declaratory judgment declaring that the personnel regulations authorizing payment of typhoon emergency premium pay, overtime, and extra pay do not apply to gubernatorial appointees; that the director of Personnel and governor lack the authority to authorize additional compensation except as provided by law; and that compensation in excess of the salary ceiling cannot be authorized except as provided by law.

The AG also wants the court to order Guerrero to pay prejudgment and post-judgment interest; costs of suit; and all other relief the court deems appropriate

According to the lawsuit, Guerrero's total compensation in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 exceeded his statutory salary of $54,000 which is against the law.

"[The] $46,892.96 received by defendant in addition to his annual salary was not lawfully paid as typhoon emergency premium pay, overtime, or extra payment. Defendant received $29,388.08 in fiscal year 2019 and $17,504.88 in fiscal year 2020 for work that occurred in fiscal year 2019 between Oct. 23, 2018, and Jan. 23, 2019," Manibusan said.

Guerrero received typhoon emergency premium pay on multiple occasions and his typhoon emergency premium pay was paid at a rate of 2.5 times his base salary.

On Nov. 26, 2018, the police chief received gross wages in the amount of $10,306.91 as typhoon emergency premium pay.

On Dec. 21, 2018, he received gross wages in the amount of $9,917.49 as typhoon emergency premium pay.

Later, on Dec. 31, 2018, he received gross wages in the amount of $9,164.59 as typhoon emergency premium pay.

On Nov. 11, 2019, Guerrero received gross wages in the amount of $17,504.88 as typhoon emergency premium pay.

In total, Guerrero received typhoon premium pay in the total gross amount of $46,892.96 with $29,388.08 paid in fiscal year 2019 and $17,504.88 paid in fiscal year 2020. However, all pay was for work performed during fiscal year 2019 from Oct. 23, 2018, through Jan. 23, 2019.

SCRAPPED

From Page 1

longer be tested upon arrival.

According to CHCC, the surveillance of COVID-19 at the border is not the best predictor of the impact COVID-19 has on the CNMI's health care system, and the CNMI will shift to focus on medically significant community infections.

"With approximately 99% of the CNMI's eligible population fully vaccinated and approximately 53% of those fully vaccinated having received a booster shot, the epidemiological data, and the state of the health system in the CNMI, entry protocols will be updated," CHCC stated.

Under the newly updated protocols, all travelers are required to complete a mandatory health declaration form and upload their vaccination cards. In addition, travelers are encouraged to fill out their health declaration form prior to arrival at www.staysafecnmi.com.

Unvaccinated travelers should quarantine at home for at least five days and wear a well-fitted mask if they must be around others.

Also, unvaccinated travelers are required to get tested five days after arrival at a Community-Based Testing site. If the traveler receives a positive result, the traveler must isolate for an additional five full days.

For inbound travelers whose final destination is either Rota or Tinian, their fifth-day test may be scheduled at their respective final destination's health center.

As for fully vaccinated travelers, they should still continue to wear a well-fitted mask if they must be around others and if they develop symptoms, should get tested at least five days after arrival. Fully vaccinated travelers wishing to avail of fifth-day testing must register at a Community-Based Testing site.

Fully vaccinated travelers should continue to wear a well-fitted mask if they must be around others and if they develop symptoms, should get tested at least five (5) days after arrival. Fully vaccinated travelers wishing to avail of 5th-day testing must register at a Community-Based Testing site.

Fully vaccinated individuals are responsible for uploading onto their health declaration form proof of completing a COVID-19 vaccine series. The vaccination record must include the following information: vaccine administrator, recipient's name, recipient's date of birth, vaccination site, vaccine name, vaccination administration date, lot number, and vaccine expiration date.

For travelers vaccinated outside the CNMI, in addition to the CDC Vaccination Record Card, an official immunization record or an attestation statement may be required by the CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team. The attestation statement confirms that the information provided in the health declaration form is true and is subject to CNMI laws that may lead to criminal fines. For individuals who were vaccinated in the CNMI, vaccination records from CHCC will be used to verify vaccination status.

Unvaccinated travelers seeking essential worker status must submit a negative PCR test with their health declaration 72 hours prior to arrival via www.staysafecnmi.com.

Despite these changes, CHCC assured that the safety and health of the residents of the CNMI remain the top priorities of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC.

'114 small businesses in NMI are approved for $938K in economic injury loan advance'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of Jan. 19, 2022, about 114 Targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance grant applications from small businesses in the Marianas worth $938,000 have been approved, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (MP-Ind).

In his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend, Sablan disclosed that on Monday last week, the U.S. Small Businesses announced that small businesses that were declined for the Targeted EIDL Advance and Supplemental Targeted Advance program will be reevaluated for funding.

The Biden administration created the Targeted EIDL Advance program—which provides up to $15,000 in financial support that does not need to be repaid—to assist small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

230

From Page 1

12 were identified on Tinian and three on Rota. The vaccination statuses of the 211 cases are pending verification.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified that the territory's 299th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Feb. 7, 2022. The patient was an 83-year-old male, partially vaccinated, who tested positive on Feb. 7. This came as Guam reported 844 new cases and 46 hospitalizations.

The JIC statement quoted Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero as saying: "The heart of our community breaks again for another family in mourning tonight. We continue to endure the anguish brought on by this dangerous virus, and we pray for peace and comfort for those who have sustained the gravest of hardships throughout the pandemic. [Lt. Gov.] Josh [Tenorio] and I urge everyone to remain steadfast in your mitigative efforts to reduce your risk of exposure and to seek treatment immediately if you are sick."

In the CNMI, as of Feb. 7, 2022, there were eight individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, with five of them unvaccinated, two vaccinated, and one who is partially vaccinated. One of the eight is on a ventilator and four have been were discharged.

A total of 154 COVID-19 vaccines were administered on Feb. 7, 2022, resulting in 99.8% of the CNMI's eligible population being fully vaccinated.

A total of 632 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Feb. 6, 2022: 536 via community-based testing; 89 at the Tinian Health Center; and seven at the Rota Health Center.

Of the total cases identified in the CNMI since March 26, 2020, there have already been 4,669 recoveries; 1,640 active cases; and 23 COVID-19-related deaths as of Feb. 6, 2022.

A total of 3,230 cases in the CNMI were identified via contact tracing; 2,486 community testing; and 616 travel testing.

CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death.

Also, it reminds anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to seek care or get tested, as you may be eligible for treatment that is given soon after infection.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate when they are sick (except to get medical care), even if they do not have symptoms; rest; stay hydrated; can take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, to relieve symptoms; and live COVID-19 safe.

Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and live COVID-19 safe (except to get medical care or get tested for COVID-19). Other options include seeing their health care provider or calling the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. Learn more on how to live COVID-19 safe at www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidsafe.

Unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19, and unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses for those who are eligible. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 682-7468.

Individuals age 18 or older are now eligible to avail of a booster shot; 12- to 17-year-olds can avail of a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot. Data from small clinical trials show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is waning after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization.

To view the schedule for community-based testing, visit https://covidtesting.chcc.health. No code is required to register.

While you wait to get tested or for your test results, stay at home as much as possible and limit your contact with others. Live COVID-19 safe: wear your mask; wash your hands; watch your distance; avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19. ***(PR/Saipan Tribune)***

If you tested **positive** on any FDA-approved at-home test kit

Call CHCC contact tracers for next steps

(670) 286-1710 (670) 285-1942
(670) 286-1711 (670) 287-1652
(670) 287-1683

REMINDER: If you are experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19, call **911**. Severe symptoms include: trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone.

If you are concerned that you may have come in **contact with someone who tested positive**

Call CHCC contact tracers for next steps

(670) 286-1710 (670) 285-1942
(670) 286-1711 (670) 287-1652
(670) 287-1683

REMINDER: Call the CHCC Tele-Triage line at **(670) 233-2067**, or get checked by a health care provider if you are experiencing symptoms.

How do I know if I am considered a high-risk contact to a COVID-19 positive case?

High-risk contacts have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive case and

- are living in the same household
- had face-to-face contact 15 minutes or more, within 6 feet of each other

OR

- had direct physical contact with each other
- have been in a closed environment for more than 15 minutes, within 6 feet of each other

OR

- had unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on)
- are traveling companions of the known case

Remember to always practice the 3 W's:
Wear your mask, Wash your hands, Watch your distance

Live COVID-19 safe!

GET VACCINATED!

Make sure everyone in your household who qualifies for a COVID-19 vaccination gets vaccinated, or gets a booster shot.

Register for a COVID-19 vaccine at **www.vaccinatecnmi.com**, or walk in for a booster shot.

Learn more at **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus,**

WEAR A MASK

Everyone 2 years or older who is not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in indoor public places.

If you are fully vaccinated, to **maximize protection** and prevent possibly spreading COVID-19 to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.

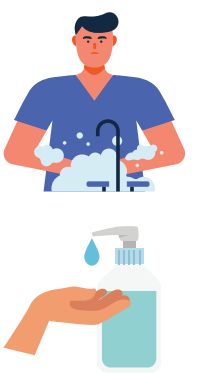
Learn more at **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.**

WASH YOUR HANDS

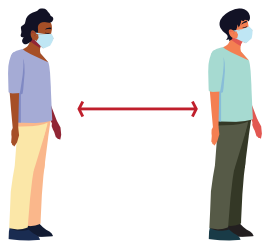
Wash your hands often with soap and water for **at least 20 seconds**, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Learn more at **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.**



WATCH YOUR DISTANCE



Stay **6 feet away** from others, especially around individuals who are not in your household.

Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.

Learn more at **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.**

AVOID CROWDS AND POORLY VENTILATED SPACES

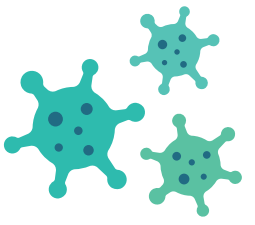
Being in crowded places like restaurants, bars, fitness centers, or movie theaters with other people puts you at higher risk for COVID-19.

Avoid indoor spaces that do not offer fresh air from the outdoors as much as possible.

Learn more at **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.**

GET TESTED IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT OR FEEL SYMPTOMS

Testing can give you information about your risk of spreading COVID-19. While you wait for your test results, you should limit your contact with others as much as possible.



Register for free community-based testing at **https://covidtesting.chcc.health**

Learn more at **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.**

COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- If you cough or sneeze into your mask, put on a new, clean mask as soon as possible and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for atleast 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily availablem clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Learn more at **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.**

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

Clean high touch surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, a nd sinks.

If someone is sick or has tested positive for COVID-19, disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Learn more at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

MONITOR YOUR HEALTH

Check daily for symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, or other symptoms of Covid-19,

Monitoring symptoms is especially important if you are running errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet.

Learn more at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, see a medical provider as soon as possible

@cnmichcc | www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidsafe

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

02/09/2022
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after February 28, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
CHCC Community Guidance Center Transitional Living Center and Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Center.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center (CGC) is the single state agency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Transitional Living Center under CGC. The proposed rehabilitation is to repair damages from Typhoon Yutu. The center requires replacement of doors, door jambs, door locks, painting of interior and exterior building and rooms. This includes electrical outlets, switches, light fixtures, and convert to LED lighting. The replacement of existing tins to new ones and replacement of existing wood truss in exterior balcony. The plumbing will have be redone according to code standards, replace toilets, toilet seats, showerheads, water valves, drain pipes for all bathroom and kitchen. Replace kitchen cabinets, sinks, and counters and install new ones.

The Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery (SATR) Clinic, is also a program within the CGC. The proposed rehabilitation is to repair damages from typhoon Yutu. The damages for repair include exterior and interior doors, door jambs, and door locks. They also include replacement of vinyl floor tiles on the first and second floors. Removal of existing water and sewer lines to conform to building code standards. Repair and replace bathroom walls, facets, lavatory, water closet, all ADA required updates including handle bars and door sizes. Removal and replacement of all damaged wood closets and paint. Replacement of all electrical conduits with weatherproof GFCI outlets for the exterior and new electrical outlets in the interior of the building. Replacement of all ceiling light fixtures interior and exterior. Removal and replacement of all electrical breakers and panels. Installation of typhoon shutters on all doors and windows. Repainting on interior and exterior buildings and rooms.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Commonwealth Health Center Community Guidance Center Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Clinic is an essential component that support individuals and families affected with substance abuse disorders with essential information and coping skills to pursue health, wellness, and recovery.

Location:
Gloria Dr., Navy Hill, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
$710,000.00 in CDBG-DR funding
No other funding sources were identified

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by February 25, 2022, 4:00 p.m., will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Torres stands firm on Castro hiring

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres is standing by his decision to hire William Castro as his chief of staff, with the Office of the Governor issuing a statement yesterday stating Torres' stance on the matter.

This comes soon after Sen. Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan), recently questioned the hiring of Castro.

"It must be an election year when a sitting senator chooses to question the just decision of the chief executive when there are more important issues facing our Commonwealth," Torres said in the statement.

"[Castro's] professional experience speaks for itself: a senior adviser to a two-term governor, a senior aide on healthcare reform, a two-term senator, a longstanding civic leader, and a former educator in both Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands," Torres said. "His desire to move all of our Marianas, of which Wil is a son, forward, is unwavering and a testament to his motivation to serve in this capacity."

The governor pointed out that Castro turned down higher paying private opportunities to continue his career as a public servant. He also opted not to uproot his family in Guam—his fiancée, Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, and their kids, Liam and Mariåna—from their professional and educational responsibilities while he serves the people of the Commonwealth.

Torres

Castro

"If Sen. Deleon Guerrero thinks that Wil was hired solely on his educational achievements, then she is badly mistaken. Wil has proven time and again, and long before joining my administration, that the people of the CNMI and our welfare are paramount to him.

"Rather than approach this matter with decorum, Sen. Deleon Guerrero instead chose free media over the professional route of *inafa'maolek*," Torres added.

"Sen. Deleon Guerrero, in one breath, is both enamored by and condescending of Wil's education. This is unfortunate because she is pitting our people against each other under the guise of governance. Her 'What about?' tone is divisive, injurious and insincere.

"By her unsound rationale, should we not hire off-island medical professionals, technical craftsmen, or entice off-island investors to come to the CNMI? This borders on hypocrisy on many levels.

"Wil has a history of bridging gaps in policy, and he is an ardent supporter of our natural resources, finance, healthcare, and economic prosperity. He is a proven communicator on many local, federal and international platforms," Torres added. ***(PR/Saipan Tribune)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 664-1712 | Email: cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp
VISION: "To integrate a seamless workforce development system that meets the needs of employers, job-seekers, workers, and youths in order to supply quality employees for the dynamic economy of the CNMI."

Regular General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 2021
Venue: Aqua Resort Club - Taga Room & Virtual*
Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

** Due to Covid-19 safety measures, in-person attendance is limited to members of the State Workforce Development Board. Virtual attendance is available to members of the public interested in attending or making public comments. Please email cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp for the link prior to the meeting.*

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda
IV. Election of Officers
V. Adoption of Minutes – October 21, 2021 General Membership Meeting
VI. Public Comments
VII. Program Updates
VIII. New Business
a. Unified State Plan Modifications - Program Year 2022-2023**
IX. Executive Session
X. Announcements
XI. Next Meeting: To be announced
XII. Adjournment

***Denotes Action Item*

/s/ Velma Palacios
Chairperson

This announcement is paid in full through a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration.

MISSION: ""Empowering, integrating, implementing, and innovating the workforce needs of the CNMI."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-COR-42200059

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2022 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUNDN FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

A MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **February 9, 2022 AT 9:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, TEKKEN STREET, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AND MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO RITA IGLECIAS, HR MANAGER, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON FEBRUARY 14, 2022** TO riglecias.doc@gmail.com, OR VIA PHONE AT (670) 237-2704.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

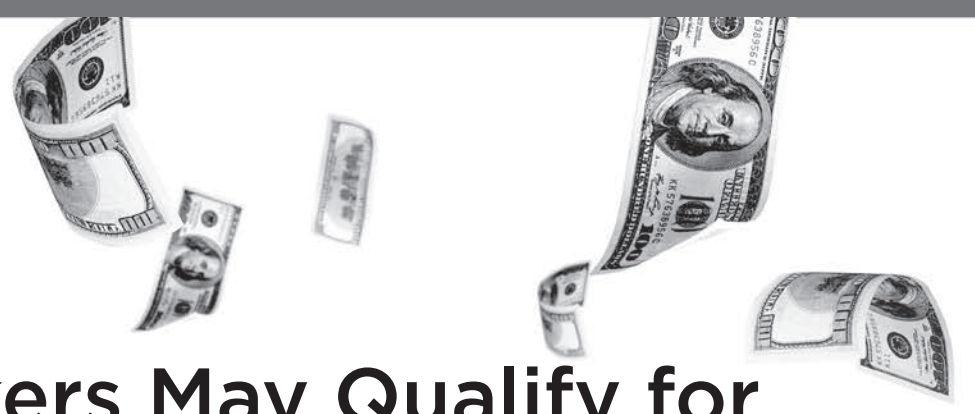
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ WALLY F. VILLAGOMEZ
COMISSIONER

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation



Workers May Qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wants to make life a little easier for workers by alerting them about a special tax credit that can put money in their pockets.

The amount of EITC varies by income, family size and filing status. It can mean up to $1,502 in EITC for people without a qualifying child, and up to $6,728 for those with three or more qualifying children.

If you qualify for EITC, you must file a tax return, even if you have no tax to pay, to claim the credit. Workers should know they earned it, now file, claim it and get it.

With the exception of some who receive certain disability income, you must work for someone, or run your own business or farm to qualify for EITC. Workers who made less than $57,414 should see if they qualify for EITC using the EITC Assistant tool at www.irs.gov/eitc.Verify if you are eligible for EITC and estimate the amount of your credit.

But, make sure you get the right amount of credit due to you. If you have someone prepare your return, bring the following to your preparer:

- A valid driver's license or other photo ID card
- Social security cards, a social security number (SSN) verification letter for all persons listed on the return
- Birth dates for all persons listed on return
- All income statements: Forms W-2 and 1099, Social Security, and other statements, such as pensions, stocks, interest and any documents showing taxes withheld. If you run a business or farm, records of all income earned.
- All records of expenses, such as tuition, mortgage interest or real estate taxes. And, if you run a business or farm, records of all related expenses.
- Copies of last year's tax returns, if available
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers to direct deposit any refund
- Dependent childcare information: name and address of who you paid and either the caretaker's SSN or other tax identification number
- Both spouses to sign forms to a joint tax return

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 28

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A return to normal life after omicron will require vigilance

For the first time in a long while, there's good news about COVID-19. The omicron wave is cresting in the U.S., and in many states is already receding. A respite from SARS-CoV-2 could well follow. And if new variants eventually emerge, it may be possible to live with them—that is, without shutting businesses, always wearing masks and social distancing.

A return to normal—that modest but elusive goal—should be possible once COVID-19 hospitalizations fall from thousands each day much closer to the hundreds associated with a bad flu season. Ensuring it lasts will require careful monitoring, better data collection, and a nationwide effort to prevent another crisis.

Five things in particular need to be monitored:

1. Surges in COVID-19 cases and deaths anywhere in the world. Working with the World Health Organization, the U.S. should help other countries keep a close eye on COVID-19 outbreaks (as well as outbreaks of other contagious respiratory illnesses) and report data quickly and publicly, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does in the United States.

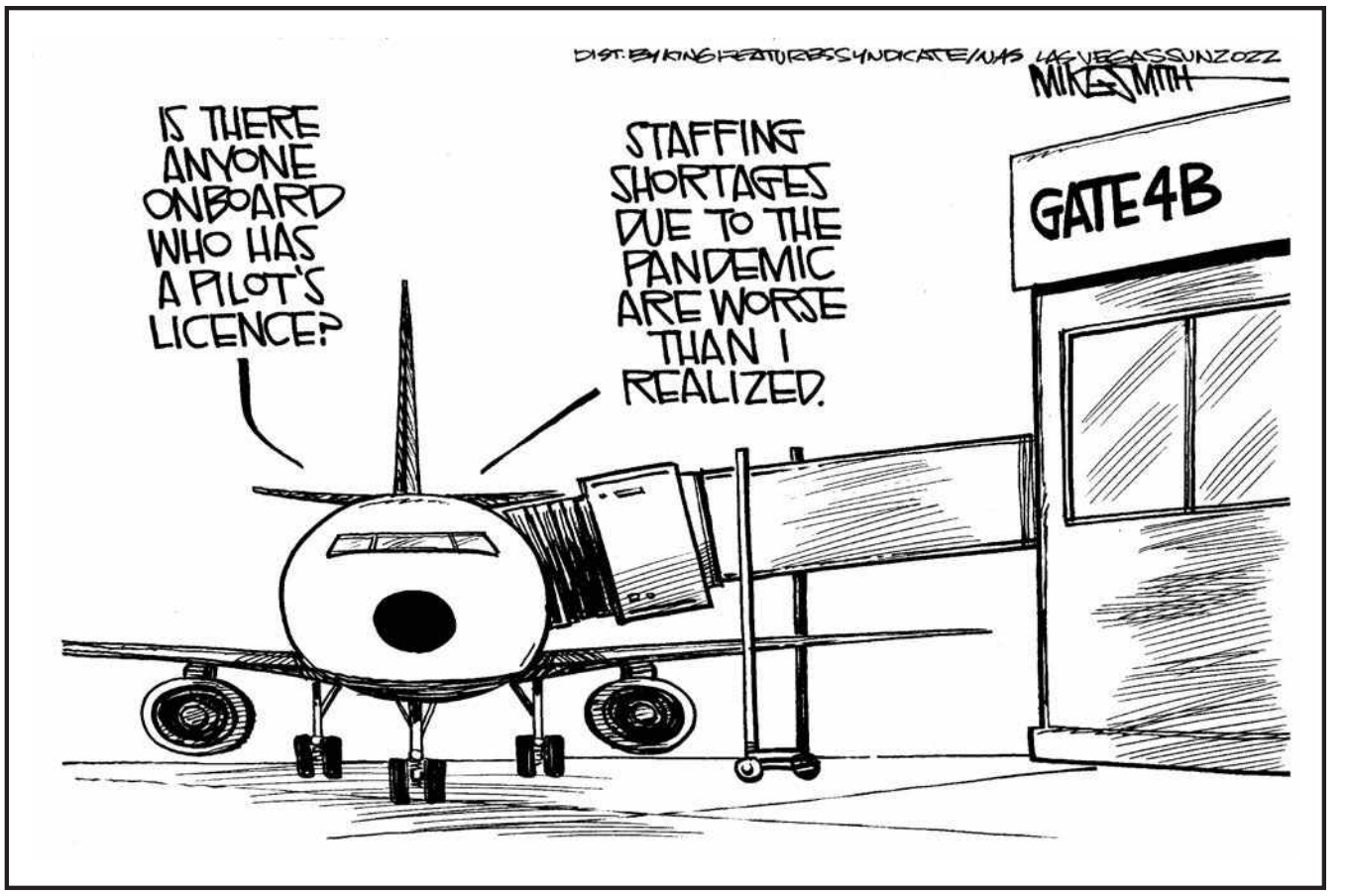
2. Genomic changes in the coronavirus. To detect the arrival of new variants, the CDC must improve its efforts to analyze the genetic code of the virus found in people who test positive. The agency conducts such testing in certain areas, but it has yet to build out a sufficiently extensive and geographically representative system, leaving the U.S. dependent on other countries for news of emerging variants. All patients who experience severe breakthrough infections should have their viruses analyzed.

3. Vaccine effectiveness. Working with vaccine makers and independent scientists, the Food and Drug Administration and the CDC need to jointly monitor Americans for waning immunity, especially as new variants arise. All the existing vaccines are expected to lose some of their power with time. It's crucial to continually assess their effectiveness and have boosters available as needed.

4. COVID-19's presence in sewage. Measuring the level of coronavirus in public wastewater systems can provide an early warning of COVID-19 surges and likewise indicate when infections are waning. The CDC created the National Wastewater Surveillance System in 2020 to work with state and local health departments to test wastewater. In the process, it needs to strengthen standards for sewage testing and ensure that measurements from various systems are comparable.

5. Hospital bed availability and staffing levels. Accurate and timely information from states on hospital capacity can also indicate when viral infections are surging. The CDC already compiles such data, but state-level statistics aren't always up to date or consistent. Refining this system can help ensure that the country's hospitals are prepared to handle an outbreak.

See OMICRON on Next Page


DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/WAS LAS VEGAS SUN 2022
MIKE SMITH
IS THERE ANYONE ONBOARD WHO HAS A PILOT'S LICENCE?
STAFFING SHORTAGES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC ARE WORSE THAN I REALIZED.
GATE 4B

If Putin wants an exit from the Ukraine crisis, the offramps are open

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

When Russia's Vladimir Putin massed 100,000 troops on Ukraine's borders, the United States and its European allies responded with a hastily assembled assortment of carrots and sticks to deter him from an invasion.

The sticks included military aid to Ukraine, troop deployments to Poland and other countries bordering Russia and surprisingly credible warnings that military action would trigger crippling economic sanctions.

"Putin has united the West behind U.S. leadership," Ed Luce wrote in London's Financial Times last week. "It has been years since that sentence could be written with a straight face."

The carrots have taken longer.

Diplomats are scrambling to devise what they call "offramps"—arrangements both sides can live with that would make it easier for Putin to change course.

Two weeks ago, Putin was demanding quick acceptance of his demands, and U.S. officials were warning that an invasion appeared imminent. Last week, the Russian leader abruptly shifted his tone and said there was still time to find a diplomatic solution.

It isn't clear what changed. But one factor may be that potential offramps have come into view.

Putin insists that Ukraine, once part of Moscow's empire, cannot be allowed to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which he views as an anti-Russian alliance.

As a practical matter, Ukraine isn't going to be offered NATO membership any time soon. The alliance admits a new country only if all members—currently 30—agree, and in this case, they don't.

"The likelihood that Ukraine is going to join NATO in the near term is not very likely," President Joe Biden said last month. "So there is room to work if [Putin] wants to do that."

The problem is that in 2008, at the urging of then-President George W. Bush, NATO promised Ukraine membership some day. Biden and other leaders from the alliance have refused to revoke that promise because that would effectively concede Putin a veto over NATO decisions.

One solution, former diplomats suggest, would be for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to voluntarily postpone Ukraine's membership bid.

"The cleanest solution would be for Zelenskyy to delay Ukraine's application—to say, for example, that it won't happen while he's president," Douglas Lute, a former NATO ambassador to Ukraine, told me last week. "He could say, 'We still intend to join NATO some day; it's just not in the cards now.' But Putin will have to offer him something in return."

Sen. Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the second-ranking Senate Democrat, floated a similar idea.

"If [Zelenskyy] decides that future [NATO] membership … and the question of Russian occupation of Ukraine are two things to put on the table, I think we may move toward a solution," he said last week on NBC's "Meet the Press."

No pressure, Durbin added: "It's his decision entirely."

That could be politically unpopular for Zelenskyy. Thanks partly to Putin's threats, Ukrainians increasingly support NATO membership; one recent poll found almost 60% in favor.

One other player could solve this problem: Putin. Nothing would stop the Russian president from eliciting private promises from individual NATO leaders that they will not allow Ukraine to join the alliance. France, Germany and Hungary have all opposed Ukrainian membership in the past.

"That would be one way to solve the problem, if Putin wants an exit," said Steven Pifer, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

But Putin has asked much more from the West than merely blocking Ukraine's application for NATO membership. In a sweeping list of demands in December, he said he wanted commitments that NATO would withdraw its troops and military hardware from the 14 countries that joined the alliance after 1997—meaning all of Eastern Europe. He also asked that the United States remove its remaining nuclear weapons from the continent.

In effect, he demanded that NATO agree to shrink itself, undo two decades of expansion and dismantle much of Europe's current security architecture.

The effect was the opposite of what Putin wanted. NATO immediately bolstered its forces in the east, including the former Soviet republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Biden dispatched 3,000 U.S. troops to Poland, Romania and Germany. Britain sent troops to Estonia; Canada to Latvia; France and Italy to Romania.

All of which, paradoxically, could make negotiating easier, not harder. Now Russia faces more NATO troops near its borders. If Putin is willing to enter negotiations to limit troops on both sides, the U.S. and its allies are too.

Another of Putin's concerns should also be easy to negotiate.

See PUTIN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The importance of Transgender Day of Remembrance

By IAN SONG
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

What is LGBTQ+? As a child, I never really understood what it meant to be part of the LGBTQ+ community. I didn't even know such a community existed. I never understood the strict borders between pink and blue, between dolls and race cars, between pretty dresses and sports-related T-shirts. I never understood why these boundaries existed, and why people discriminate against others for being who they are.

My name is Ian. I am a 14-year-old boy at Saipan International School. As I went into middle school I heard many jokes using homosexuality such as "You're gay." It became so casual among most students. In fact, I began to make jokes and I became the occasional immature peer who uses homosexuality to make jokes, because I did not know the severity of discrimination or the history of the LGBTQ+ community.

These are the winning essays sponsored by T Project and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library that sought to answer the question: What is Transgender Day of Remembrance, and why is it important?

The community that we live in tends to believe that different people are "weird." Gender variance is older than we think, and trans people are part of that legacy. What is Transgender Day of Remembrance? It was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was murdered in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death. Rita Hester and many other people died due to hate crimes against transgender people.

Some say that sexual orientation and gender identity are sensitive issues. I understand because I did not grow up talking about these issues. But I learned that lives are at stake. Many people don't understand; they don't understand how one can feel such a way and, even worse, they don't care to make an effort to try and learn anything about transgender people and how they feel. They would rather mock these people than listen to them.

Between October 2019 and September 2020, more than 350 trans and gender diverse people were brutally murdered worldwide. In 2021, 375 transgender people were killed. Not only the LGBTQ+ community, but other communities as well, such as people of color, are viciously treated for being who they are.

People have fought their way for justice. Behind every name stands a life fully lived, a person who loved and was loved. Every day, trans people fight for their right to live. Behind every murder is a society that does not protect trans lives, that does not provide safety and dignity for trans people. The growing racism and xenophobia in many countries is an additional threat to trans migrants and people of color. On Nov. 20, we remember and mourn those we have lost. We need to honor their legacies every day. We fight for our futures. We remember all of them.

"The world tries to bury our beauty, our existence. They tell us to hide our identities deep inside. Yet, like a seed within us we must let ourselves grow, watered with self-love, self-care, and pride. Then to finally blossom."—Walt Whitman

Ian Song is a 14-year-old student at Saipan International School.

A time of respect and a symbol of hope

By JERMAINE CHLOE YALUNG
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Transgender Remembrance Day was established on Nov. 20, 1999, in honor of Rita Heister, whose murder launched a platform for transgender communities to raise awareness of the threats and violence against them. However, this day's value lies further than its origins; it's a testament to evolution, a day of advocacy, and a sign of respect. Despite trials and tribulations, the transgender community was able to grow from their unfortunate situation, displaying qualities of true pride. Future generations can witness the hardship, the struggle, and the fight for their rights—so strong that no one will be able to extinguish their passion.

Thousands of people around the world observe Transgender Remembrance Day; and most consider it a time of expression in honor of the events that happened in the past. Back then, violence toward the transgender community ran rampant: slurs, beatings, segregation, and even murder were common events. Our society has come a long way from our long history of mistreatment toward people who are just trying to be themselves. Now we've been able to evolve into a more welcoming and accepting society. We celebrate instead of demolishing, we compliment instead of slander and, most importantly, we love instead of hate. It has come to a point where we've been able to celebrate everyone, honoring who they are as individuals and recognizing that part of themselves as true and right. This shows that we are capable of change. When people look back on this day, they witness the progress we've made to become the community that we are today.

The events that sparked the Day of Remembrance are something that we must continue to bring awareness of and advocate to this day. Although our society has been able to take large strides in our effort toward acceptance, it is undeniable that some horrendous acts still occur to this day. Transgender Remembrance Day enables us to advocate and speak out against the crimes that have, and continue to, invade the lives of many. Murder is just one of the many hate crimes that the transgender community faces. The "small," "insignificant" comments made by others can build up over time and can cause an insurmountable amount of damage to a person, more than what others might ever know. This is exactly why we must advocate for what we believe in and stand firm in our beliefs. On this day, the transgender community can unite and come together to relate their struggles, bringing awareness to those who need support. Not only does advocacy initiate conversations beneficial to the understanding of others, but also sparks interest and knowledge of the ideas that the transgender community hopes to see in the world. Ultimately, Transgender Remembrance Day is a time of respect for those murdered in the fight for their beliefs. Far too many lives have been lost by people who were simply trying to be themselves. Nov. 20th is the day the community can look back on themselves and remember these people and the events that took place. Communities can organize events, exhibits, and candlelight vigils to recognize the violence and issues at hand. In a way, this allows people to cope with their situations, loss, and emotions. For some, it could mean a time of mourning, for others it could mean a time of peace, but for all, it is a sign of respect. Living in this life is a struggle; let alone having to cope with people degrading something you recognize as one of the most fundamental aspects of yourselves. These feelings can become so overwhelming that they could lead to pain, suffering, and even suicide. By honoring these people and showing respect for their loss, we can find comfort within the stresses of the world.

Transgender Remembrance Day empowers our society to evolve, advocate, and respect the cause. We have grown to become much more accommodating and accepting toward the transgender community, which is something that we should take pride in. However, that doesn't mean that the issue is eradicated and that we can stop bringing awareness to the struggles that we face. This is a time for us to show respect for those who have gone, and even those that continue to live on within the imperfect conditions of society. Though it may be hard, Transgender Remembrance Day is a symbol of hope; revealing that we are so much more than what the world makes us out to be. While we might have come from hardship and pains in the past, we are still here—powerful enough to be able to fight for our beliefs.

Jermaine Chloe Yalung is an 11th grade student at the Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School on Rota.

OMICRON

From Page 8

All this information should be uploaded to public databases. Also needed is a clear sense of how much COVID-19 Americans are willing to live with. Ezekiel Emanuel, of the University of Pennsylvania, suggests setting a risk threshold for COVID-19, flu and other viruses together of about 35,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths in a week. Beyond those levels—or similar benchmarks—elected officials could consider reimposing mask mandates and other restrictions to protect health care systems from overload.

Of course, COVID-19 alone caused about four times that many hospitalizations and five times that many deaths in late January. But the numbers are falling, and with luck the omicron wave will have receded by spring. It's time to look ahead with cautious optimism, and to put sensible measures in place to end the permanent crisis.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Renaissance Man

During the Renaissance, the world saw through different eyes—fantastical journeys through a mortal prism of life. That is where Rexford Kosack came from. He nurtured your hopes, stood defiantly against fear. He was a ray of light for all humanity and he has guided lost souls. I remember anger and forgiveness. A presentation created by Rex and Claire. Then they shared it with Marriage Encounters and brought unknown members out of darkness. Claire has lost her knight, Saipan its son, and the world Rexford Kosack.

Thomas Thornburgh
via email

PUTIN

From Page 8

The Russian president has long complained about U.S.-made Aegis missile launchers in Eastern Europe. The United States says the missile bases are purely defensive; Putin charges that they could put TLAM cruise missiles, a sophisticated offensive weapon, within minutes of Moscow.

The solution, Lute said, is straightforward: missile inspection agreements on both sides of the border.

"We have no intention of putting TLAM there," he said. "We'd be giving away something we don't want."

Which offramps might Putin consider? That depends on a more basic question: What does Putin really want?

Perhaps his new enthusiasm for diplomacy last week meant Putin isn't bent on war after all.

Or else he merely needs more time to move military units into place. Or he's decided to wait until Feb. 20, the end of the Winter Olympics, to avoid offending China's Xi Jinping. Or he's simply decided to negotiate to find out what price he can command for standing down.

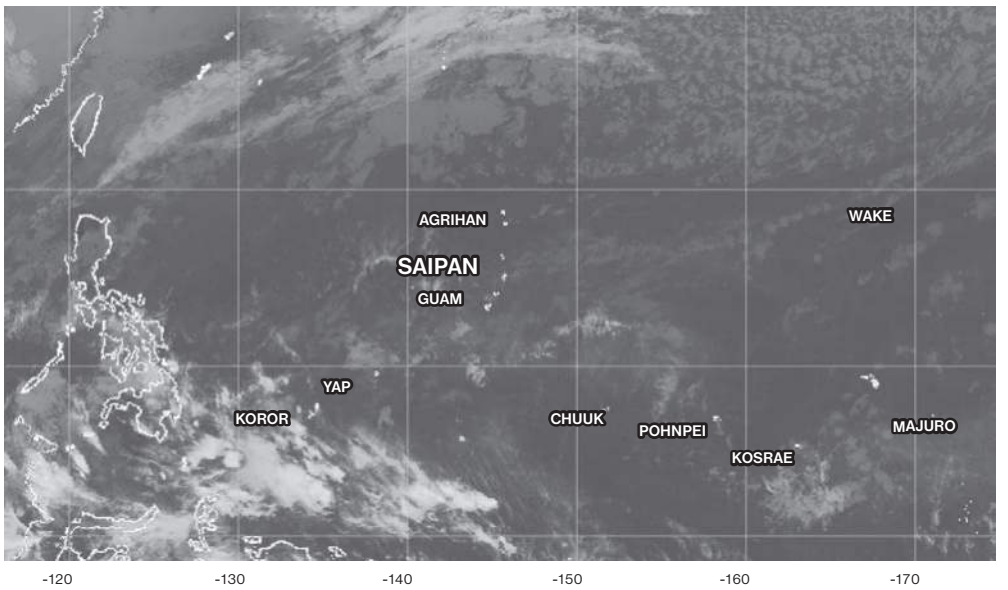
In any case, the problem isn't a shortage of available offramps. The exits are there. It's up to Putin to use them.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Breezy. Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of light showers.
85° 75°	85° 75	85° 75°	85° 75°	85° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:41 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The trade wind disturbance that was suppose to bring showers to Guam and Rota today is moving slower than expected. Because of that, only isolated showers are now forecasted through this afternoon. For Tinian and Saipan, the shear line is moving south and slowly increasing cloud coverage and only isolated showers are expected until tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms/Wind	28 / 24 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27 °F
Majuro	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:44 AM	18:18 PM
Thursday	06:43 AM	18:18 PM
Friday	06:43 AM	18:19 PM
Saturday	06:42 AM	18:19 PM
Saturday	06:42 AM	18:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	00:32 PM	12:13 PM
Thursday	-	01:22 PM	12:55 PM
Friday	-	02:14 PM	13:40 PM
Saturday	-	03:05 PM	14:28 PM
Sunday	-	03:57 PM	15:19 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	AM Showers	25 / 21 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	9 / -6 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	18 / 15 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	27 / 20 °F
London	PM Light Rain	12 / 95°F
Los Angeles	Sunny	30 / 13 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	33 / 24°F
Melbourne	AM Clouds/PM Sun	29 / 17 °F
Miami	AM Shower	21 / 15 °F
New York	Mostly Sunny	9 / 3 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	11 / 4 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	12 / 5 °F
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	11 / 3 °F
Rome	Sunny	17 / 3 °F
Salem	Sunny	17 / 2 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	21 / 11 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	6 / 6 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	10 / 3 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	13 / 3 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
02:51 AM	High Tide	1.17
07:21 AM	Low Tide	0.93
1:09 PM	High Tide	1.51
9:02 PM	Low Tide	0.15

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	3, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Winners named in CNMI-wide essay-writing contest

Ian Jun Ho Song of Saipan International School and Jermaine Chloe Yalung of the Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School of Rota have been named the winners of an essay contest held in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance last Nov. 20, 2021.

Song was named the winner among the entries from Saipan, while Yalung won the top spot among the entries from Rota.

Aside from Son, the other Saipan winners were Joan Jun Hee Song of Saipan Community School, who won second place, and Chelsea Lorenzo of Marianas High School, who won third place.

The other Rota winners were Anthony Dean Jr. Magofna, who is in 7th Grade at the Dr. RHI Jr./Sr. High School, and won second place; T'keyah M. Emesiochl, Dr.RHI Jr./Sr. High School, 10th Grade, who won third place; and Tyrese M. Maratita, Dr.RHI Jr./Sr. High School, 7th Grade, who won fourth place.

The islandwide essay contest, which was held for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, was sponsored by the Marianas LGBTO+ group T-Project, in partnership with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. It did not name a Tinian winner.

Eligible students in grades 7th to 12th grade were asked to submit their original piece of writing in response to the question: "What is Transgender Day of Remembrance and why is it important?" The essay contest ran from October 2021 to Jan. 31, 2022. Three winners were chosen from each island. **(Saipan Tribune)**

OIA now accepting applications for energy projects

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced that proposals are now being accepted for the Energizing Insular Communities grant program for fiscal year 2022. The anticipated total funding available to the territories is $15.5 million. Those eligible to apply are local government entities, independent authorities, and educational institutions located in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2022.

» Deadline: June 15

"In a meeting last week with the governors and territorial leadership at the Interagency Group on Insular Areas, among other important matters, we discussed ways to leverage various funding resources for infrastructure in the territories as well as the long-term strategies for implementing each territory's energy and resource plans," said Keone Nakoa, deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "I would encourage the applicants to consider ways to leverage these EIC funds to advance key energy priorities in the territories."

Each proposal will be reviewed and evaluated for two important criteria:

1) whether the proposal is directly tied to the territory's respective strategic energy plan, energy action plan, or integrated resource plan; and,

2) whether there is a projected energy cost savings to end-users.

All applications should be submitted through either GrantSolutions.gov or Grants.gov—where the EIC grant is listed under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number 15.875. For detailed instructions, visit https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance.

For more information about the Office of Insular Affairs visit http://www.doi.gov/oia. (PR)

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, June 4, 2021, Anthony Alepuyo and Jesselyn B. Dris-Alepuyo, immediate family members of Roger Dris, employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Roger Dris is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, April 30, 2021, Janessa C. Santos, an immediate family member of Kristian Santos, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Kristian Santos is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

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Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
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Corporate Director

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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, April 23, 2021, Joey A. San Nicolas, an immediate family member of Patrick H. San Nicolas, a Congressman for the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Patrick H. San Nicolas is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, Joseph E. Santos, a Chairman for the 18th Tinian Municipal Council, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Joseph E. Santos is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, June 18, 2021, Thomas K. Sablan, an immediate family member of Remedio Reyes, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Remedio Reyes is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, March 8, 2021, Thomas S. Sablan and Emy R. Sablan, immediate family members of Remedio Reyes, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Remedio Reyes is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Dementia support group to feature massage therapy techniques

Licensed massage therapist Danielle Kaczmarek will be offering two free virtual presentations this month demonstrating massage therapy techniques for older adults and persons with dementia as well as ways to use massage to connect with older adults.

Her presentation—"Massage Therapy in Elderly and Dementia Care"—is part of the ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the University of Guam School of Health.

Kaczmarek has more than 10 years of experience as a licensed massage therapist and also has experience as a full-time family caregiver. Kaczmarek will be available after her presentations to answer questions from participants.

» Free Guam Museum virtual tour

Also this month, the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program and the Guam Museum will collaborate to offer a virtual tour of the Guam Museum's sixth gallery "*Humuyong-ña I Gera*," which translates to "The Cost of War." The tour is specially designed for families with older adults and persons with dementia who might not be able to visit the museum in person.

The tour series is conducted by Guam Museum curator Michael Lujan Bevacqua, who holds a doctorate in ethnic studies and specializes in CHamoru history, language, and culture.

The public is invited to tune in to any of the following sessions:

- **Massage Therapy in El derly and Dementia Care**
  6pm-8pm, Wednesday, Feb. 16, or
  10am-noon, Saturday, Feb. 19
- **Guam Museum Virtual Tour – Gallery 6: "Humuyong-Ña I Gera (The Cost of War)"**
  6pm-8pm, Wednesday, Feb. 23, or
  10am-noon, Saturday, Feb. 26

Support group sessions

Support group sessions are held remotely on Zoom every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning, year-round. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

What to expect

All support groups are client-centered and confidential. They provide a safe place to share the stresses and challenges, successes, and rewards of caring for a loved one with dementia with others who may be going through similar experiences. They also provide a forum for caregivers to participate in presentations led by health care professionals and other community members with expertise in dementia care.

The support groups are facilitated by Iain Twaddle from the University of Guam, who holds a doctorate in clinical psychology and is a licensed clinical psychologist; Rhoda Orallo, a social worker with Health Services of the Pacific, who holds a master's in social work; and Nikolas Gutierrez, a G/M GWEP counselor who holds a bachelor's in psychology.

How to participate

To attend a family caregiver online support group, use the following Zoom links:

- Wednesday Support Group (6pm-8pm): https://zoom.us/j/92072878067
- Saturday Support Group (10am- 12 noon): https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

For more information, contact Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez at (671) 735-2883 or gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu or Orallo at (671) 735-3277 or nfcsp-mgr@teleguam.net. ***(PR)***

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, March 15, 2021, Maribel D. Igitol, an immediate family member of Marciana Igitol, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Marciana Igitol is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, March 12, 2021, Soledad M. Cepeda, an immediate family member of Jennifer C. Camacho, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Jennifer C. Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 02, 2021, Tasha S. Cruz, an immediate family member of Francisco Q. Cruz, Senator for the Second Senatorial District of the CNMI, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Francisco Q. Cruz is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 Ana C. Sablan, an immediate family member of Gregorio C. Sablan, a member of the US House of Representatives, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Gregorio C. Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Thursday, May 13, 2021, Janelle A. Cepeda, an immediate family member of Jacob Muna, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Jacob Muna is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Jerald P. Cabrera, an immediate family member of Jatanna C. Atalig-Hocog, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mrs. Jatanna C. Atalig-Hocog is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Shine Vizcarra is Bayani Association's Queen of Drag

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members and supporters of the Bayani Associations pose with the winners and judges of the "Queen of Drag 2022" pageant after the event last Feb. 5,2022, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The Bayani Associations' "Queen of Drag 2022" pageant was a big hit, with Shine Vizcarra going head-to-head with 10 other contestants to win the crown in the event held at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort last Feb. 5,2022.

Vizcarra, who is a hairstylist at Genes Barber and Beauty Salon, also won the Best in Lingerie, Best in Talent, Best in Evening Gown Designer's Choice Award by Bench Legaspi and landed second place in Fantasy Costume.

The first-runner up crown was awarded to Patrick, who also won the Miss Photogenic award and first place for Fantasy Costume. The 2nd runner-up crown went to Joan, who also won the Miss Congeniality Award. The 3rd runner-up crown went to Noelle, who also won Best in Fantasy Costume, while the 4th runner-up crown went to Cecille, who also received the Bayani Charity Award. Rica won Best in Hair and Makeup and Nestea won the Fan Favorite Award. The other contestants were Sunshine, Christian, Kristala, and Aileen. The pageant also featured competitions in lingerie wear and evening gown.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shine Vizcarra, center, wins the crown in the Bayani Associations' "Queen of Drag 2022" pageant held at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort last Feb. 5,2022.

The event was organized by the Bayani Association in celebration of its 20th year anniversary. Part of the proceeds of the event will benefit Typhoon Odette victims in the Philippines and the victims of the volcanic eruption in Tonga.

The pageant judges were IT&E executive director of customer operations Rob Harrel, Miss Northern Marianas Earth 2020 Maria Lael Terlaje, Miss Northern Marianas 2021 Savannah Lyn Delos Santos, TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, and Miss Marianas 2015 1st Runner Up Dana Mangloña.

The official tabulators from MIFICPA were headed by Irene Santiago, assisted by Lois Maneses and Maricris Bucalig.

The event's guest performers were from Saipan Music & Dance Studio, Bernice Shane Sabino, and Juliet Inocencio.

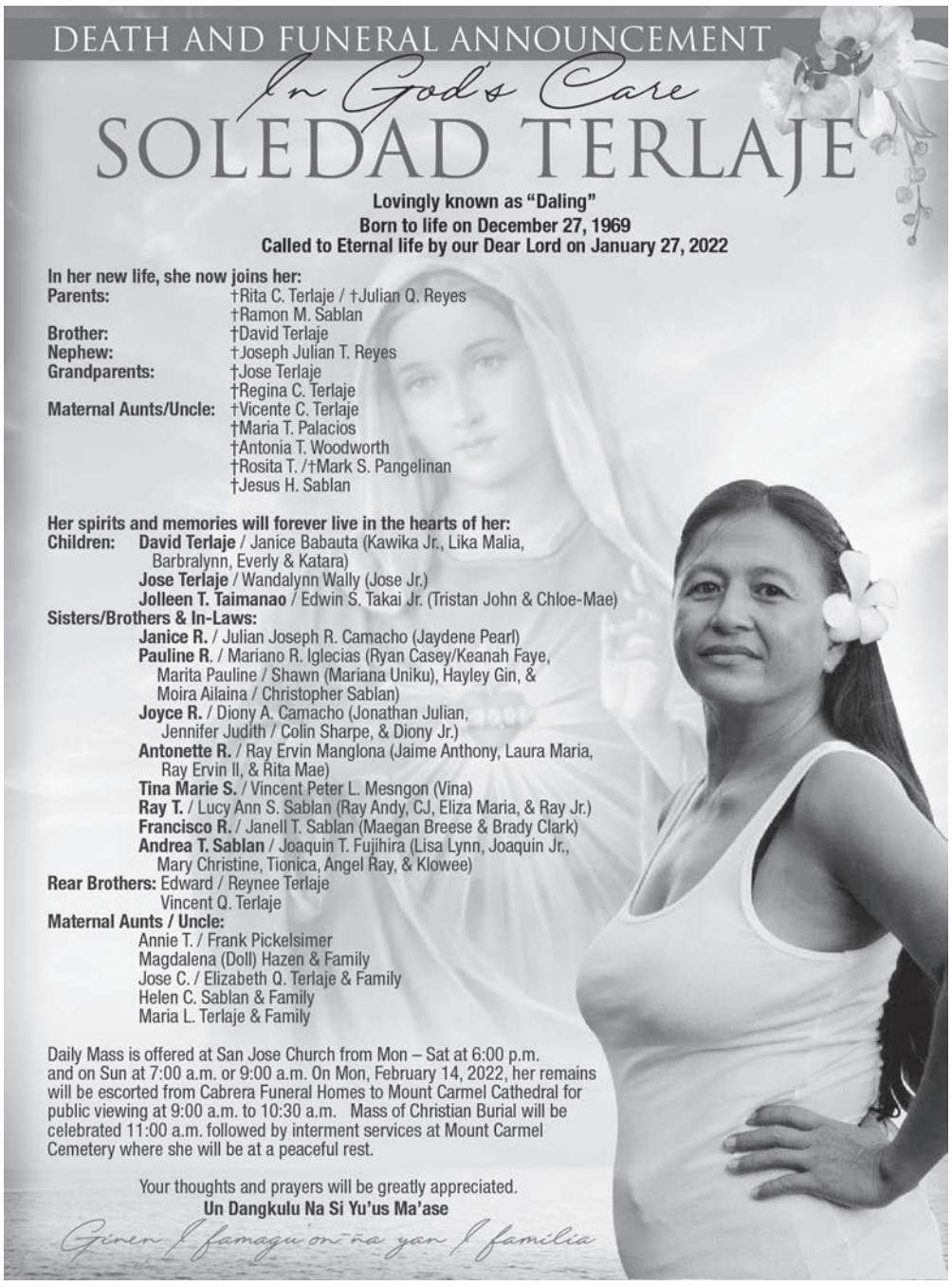
Pageant director-cum-choreographer Ernie Molina conceptualized and directed the show and the event mistress of ceremony was Annamae Adaza. "It was an overwhelming love and support from the community. A heartwarming thank you to all our sponsors. We couldn't have done it without your help," said Adaza. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Hyun Woo Jo named to University of Utah dean's list

Salt Lake City, UT—Hyun Woo Jo of Saipan has been named to the University of Utah's fall 2021 dean's list. Hyun's major is listed as Communication BA.

Hyun was among more than 9,600 students named to the fall 2021 dean's list at the university. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

The University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, is the flagship institution of higher learning in Utah. Founded in 1850, it serves over 32,000 students from across the U.S. and the world. With over 100 major subjects at the undergraduate level and more than 90 major fields of study at the graduate level, including law and medicine, the university prepares students to live and compete in the global workplace. In 2019, the university was selected as a new member of the Association of American Universities—an invitation-only, prestigious group of 65 leading research institutions marked by excellence in academic expertise and research impact, student success, and securing resources in support of core missions. ***(PR)***


DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
In God's Care
SOLEDAD TERLAJE
Lovingly known as "Daling"
Born to life on December 27, 1969
Called to Eternal life by our Dear Lord on January 27, 2022
In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: †Rita C. Terlaje / †Julian Q. Reyes
†Ramon M. Sablan
Brother: †David Terlaje
Nephew: †Joseph Julian T. Reyes
Grandparents: †Jose Terlaje
†Regina C. Terlaje
Maternal Aunts/Uncle: †Vicente C. Terlaje
†Maria T. Palacios
†Antonia T. Woodworth
†Rosita T. /†Mark S. Pangelinan
†Jesus H. Sablan
Her spirits and memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: David Terlaje / Janice Babauta (Kawika Jr., Lika Malia, Barbralynn, Everly & Katara)
Jose Terlaje / Wandalynn Wally (Jose Jr.)
Jolleen T. Taimanao / Edwin S. Takai Jr. (Tristan John & Chloe-Mae)
Sisters/Brothers & In-Laws:
Janice R. / Julian Joseph R. Camacho (Jaydene Pearl)
Pauline R. / Mariano R. Iglecias (Ryan Casey/Keanah Faye, Marita Pauline / Shawn (Mariana Uniku), Hayley Gin, & Moira Ailaina / Christopher Sablan)
Joyce R. / Diony A. Camacho (Jonathan Julian, Jennifer Judith / Colin Sharpe, & Diony Jr.)
Antonette R. / Ray Ervin Manglona (Jaime Anthony, Laura Maria, Ray Ervin II, & Rita Mae)
Tina Marie S. / Vincent Peter L. Mesngon (Vina)
Ray T. / Lucy Ann S. Sablan (Ray Andy, CJ, Eliza Maria, & Ray Jr.)
Francisco R. / Janell T. Sablan (Maegan Breese & Brady Clark)
Andrea T. Sablan / Joaquin T. Fujihira (Lisa Lynn, Joaquin Jr., Mary Christine, Tionica, Angel Ray, & Klowee)
Rear Brothers: Edward / Reynee Terlaje
Vincent Q. Terlaje
Maternal Aunts / Uncle:
Annie T. / Frank Pickelsimer
Magdalena (Doll) Hazen & Family
Jose C. / Elizabeth Q. Terlaje & Family
Helen C. Sablan & Family
Maria L. Terlaje & Family
Daily Mass is offered at San Jose Church from Mon – Sat at 6:00 p.m. and on Sun at 7:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. On Mon, February 14, 2022, her remains will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral for public viewing at 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11:00 a.m. followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.
Your thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated.
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I famagu'on ña yan I familia

Good Housekeeping

10 tips for artificial greenery

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

When it comes to successful home decor, the secret often lies in the finishing touches. Often adding living or green elements such as trees and plants can help invigorate a room. But what if the associated maintenance isn't feasible? This is when you can use artificial greenery as an aesthetically pleasing alternative.

1. Pay attention to color. A richness of color is important when it comes to artificial flowers. You will want to have selections that won't fade or loose significant color.

2. Avoid dried or silk flowers if looking to create a modern space. Dried flowers tend to work best in traditional or formal spaces.

3. Consider texture when looking for artificial flowers and stems.

4. Use artificial arrangements that are the appropriate size, height and scale.

5. Place artificial arrangements in areas where you would place live arrangements such as side tables, consoles and dining and coffee tables.

6. Avoid placing artificial arrangements in direct sunlight.

7. Maintain artificial arrangements by cleaning and dusting their stems and leaves.

8. Look for trees with large leaves in large spaces as well as spaces with tall ceilings. Small plants and plantings work well in smaller areas and spaces.

9. Consider non-floral artificial elements such as palms, berries and other non-florals.

10. Bathrooms, entry consoles and small side tables are great locations for smaller artificial arrangements. Larger arrangements work well on larger surfaces such as dining and coffee tables.

(SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS)
An oversized artificial tree helps to bring the outdoors in, inside this urban living room.

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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, Franklin T. Sablan and Dolores B. Sablan, immediate family members of Melvin M. Sablan, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Melvin M. Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-MOR/DLNR-42200053 (CIF ROTA)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M

"(A) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 35 HP COMMERCIAL - GRADE ZERO - TURN RIDING MOWER, SIDE DISCHARGE DECK, 60"-72" FINISH MOWER DECK B) 6'X12' SINGLE AXLE ALUMINUM WOOD-FLOOR UTILITY TRAILER WITH GATE/RAMP – 2,219 LBS LOAD CAPACITY FOR THE MAYOR OF ROTA, DEPARTMENT OF DLNR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. DAVID M. CALVO, RESIDENT DIRECTOR, VIA EMAIL TO davemcalvo@gmail.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID M. CALVO
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

INVITATION TO BID
SILVER 2009 TOYOTA YARIS

Slight damage from Typhoon Yutu | 4 cylinder | 4-door manual windows and locks | AM/FM radio and CD Player | 47,229 miles automatic | power steering and brakes | last serviced in 2019

SOLD "AS IS" AND " WHERE IS"

Visit our website at www.developcnmi.com for bid information and photos.

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, Janella M. Babauta, an immediate family member of Oscar M. Babauta, a board member of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Oscar M. Babauta is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, Mary M. Sablan, an immediate family member of Doraine Camacho, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Doraine Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: RFP22-OGM-42200070

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 03, 2022 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"COMPREHENSIVE GRANT MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **March 1, 2022**. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL **NOT** BE ENTERTAINED. QUESTIONS/AMSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL BIDDERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

Life & Style

‘Dune,’ ‘Power of the Dog’ poised for Oscar nomination hauls

NEW YORK (AP)—Tuesday morning’s Oscar nominations should bring Will Smith his third Academy Awards nod, a lot of love for Denis Villeneuve’s science-fiction epic “Dune” and nominations spread across more streaming services than ever.

Nominations to the 94th Academy Awards will be announced Tuesday beginning at 8:18 a.m. EST. Actors Tracee Ellis Ross and Leslie Jordan will read the nominees live on multiple platforms, including Oscar.com, Oscars.org, the academy’s social media accounts and on ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

A largely virtual awards season has added some unpredictability to this year’s nominations, which are occurring later than usual. (To make way for the Olympics, the Oscars will be held March 27.) Among the favorites Tuesday are “Dune,” Kenneth Branagh’s black-and-white coming-of-age drama “Belfast” and Jane Campion’s gothic western “The Power of the Dog.”

Campion, a nominee for 1993’s “The Piano,” is expected to become the first woman to ever be nominated twice for best director. Last year, Chloé Zhao just became the second woman to ever win the award. Campion’s director of photography, Ari Wegner, is also poised to be just the second woman ever nominated for best cinematography. The only previous woman to do so was Rachel Morrison for “Mudbound” in 2018.

Most major streaming services have films in the hunt.

Netflix has “The Power of the Dog,” Adam McKay’s apocalyptic comedy “Don’t Look Up,” Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical adaptation “Tick, Tick ... Boom!” and Maggie Gyllenhaal’s Elena Ferrante adaptation “The Lost Daughter.” After several near-misses with “Roma,” “The Irishman” and “Mank,” Netflix is still seeking its first best picture win.

Apple has the deaf family drama “CODA” and Joel Coen’s Shakespeare adaptation “The Tragedy of Macbeth.” Denzel Washington, star of “Macbeth,” is in line for his ninth acting Oscar nomination. Troy Kotsur of “CODA” could become only the second deaf actor nominated for an Academy Award. The only previous deaf actor nominated in Oscar history is Marlee Martlin, Kotsur’s “CODA” co-star.

Amazon is represented with Aaron Sorkin’s “Being the Ricardos,” which may score acting nods for stars Nicole Kidman and Javier Bardem.

Two films that premiered simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max—”Dune” and the Will Smith-led “King Richard,” about the father of Venus and Serena Williams—should also be in the best picture mix. With about $400 million in ticket sales, “Dune” could be the biggest ticket-seller to be nominated for best picture—so long as “Spider-Man: No Way Home” or “No Time to Die” don’t sneak in.

In pulling from films released in myriad ways, the Oscar nominations are sure to reflect a tumultuous pandemic year for Hollywood that began with many theaters shuttered and ended with Sony Pictures’ “Spider-Man: No Way Home” smashing box-office records.

In between, much of the normal rhythm of the movie business was transformed, as studios pushed some of the biggest movies of the year to streaming services in a bid to lure subscribers. Films including “Dune” (despite the objections of its director), Pixar’s “Luca” and “King Richard” were among those that went straight to homes.

As COVID-19 cases surged in the last two months due to the omicron variant, much of Oscar season also turned virtual. Last year, the pandemic led the academy to host a delayed Oscars in a socially distanced ceremony at Los Angeles’ Union Station. Ratings plummeted to an all-time low of 9.85 million viewers.

This year, the academy has yet to map out plans for its show, except that it will include a host for the first time since 2018. For better or worse, the Academy Awards will also be without its usual lead-in. The Golden Globes in January were an untelevised non-event after NBC said it wouldn’t air them in 2022 while the beleaguered Hollywood Foreign Press reformed itself after ethics and diversity criticism.

Michael Jackson film coming from Bohemian Rhapsody producer

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

A biopic about Michael Jackson is in the works from Oscar-winning “Bohemian Rhapsody” producer Graham King and “Gladiator” screenwriter John Logan. Lionsgate will handle the worldwide distribution of the film, the studio’s chair Joe Drake said Monday.

The studio said that the film will give, “an in-depth portrayal of the complicated man who became the King of Pop” and that it will bring to life his “most iconic performances as it gives an informed insight into the entertainer’s artistic process and personal life.” Also producing are John Branca and John McClain, who are co-executors the Michael Jackson estate.

The Jackson business has been on the upswing of late, including the recently launched Broadway musical “MJ: The Musical,” following a series of court victories that brought an end to serious legal crises.

The 2019 HBO documentary “Leaving Neverland” raised child molestation allegations anew. The once-dead lawsuits brought by the two men featured in it had been revived by changes in the law. And a decision in the estate’s appeal of a $700 million tax bill was taking years to arrive. Bothaccusers’ lawsuits were dismissed and a ruling in the tax case slashed the bill dramatically.

The two men featured in the documentary are appealing the dismissals of their lawsuits. HBO has defended “Leaving Neverland” as a valid and important piece of documentary journalism.

The victory handed to the estate in its tax case came in part because the judge believed the value of Jackson’s image and likeness had been severely diminished by such allegations at the time of his death, despite his acquittal at his 2005 child molestation trial.

Under the guidance of Branca and McClain, the estate has brought in $2.5 billion in revenue in the past 11 years, and Jackson has remained the top earning deceased celebrity every year since his death at age 50 from a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol.

AP

This Feb. 1, 1993 file photo shows Pop superstar Michael Jackson performing during the halftime show at the Super Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

Kardashians premiere new series on April 14

NEW YORK (AP)—The Kardashians are promising an all-access pass into their lives, again, when they hit screens April 14 with a new reality series, this time on Hulu.

After 20 seasons on E! with the warts-and-all show that made them famous, “Keeping Up With the Kardashians,” fans have been waiting on an air date for the Hulu project announced soon after they wrapped up.

If an edgy trailer for “The Kardashians” is any indication, Kylie, Kim, Kourtney, Kris, Khloe and Kendall will bring the glam as the Hulu original series promises: “All the walls will be shattered.” Their previous gig was built on a family togetherness vibe until the K women (and the many men and children in their lives) made their way to the top.

A synopsis for the new show doesn’t leave out those they’re-just-like-us elements. It promises the latest iteration will “reveal the truth behind the headlines. From the intense pressures of running billion-dollar businesses to the hilarious joys of playtime and school drop-offs.”

But the binge will have to wait. New episodes will air every Thursday.

Innocent internet search reveals a shocking secret

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I recently Googled my brother-in-law to see if I could find his birthdate, which I had forgotten. When his name came up, so did some information I wish I hadn’t seen.

He’s a convicted sex offender (rape) who has served time. I am assuming my sister knows about his past. But what if she doesn’t? I don’t want to say anything to her, because if she already knows, she’ll be upset that I now know. If she doesn’t know and I tell her, I’m afraid she may blame me for messing up a good thing.

Should I talk to him and ask him if he’s told her? Or should I leave things alone and let things play out naturally? I was shocked by the revelation because it doesn’t fit the man I know.

SHOCKED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SHOCKED: Are you 100% sure the information you found is about your brother-in-law? If it’s true, the revelation that there is a felon in the family (and for rape, yet!) would shock anyone. Talk to your sister. Explain that you forgot the date of her husband’s birthday and what you discovered. It’s entirely possible that she knows about his past. But if she doesn’t, direct her to the site from which you got that information, because she’s entitled to know.

DEAR ABBY: My grandson is 30. He lives at home with his mother and father, both of whom are retired. He doesn’t have a job, nor is he actively seeking one. The only so-called job he ever had in his life was as a security guard at a college museum, working some 20 hours per week.

He is healthy but seems to be content to continue living off his parents. They sent him to college, and he says he has a degree. His mother has told me she would never kick him out of the house. I think he should be forced to get a real job. His resume would be pathetic, but I believe if he stays on this course, he’ll never be self-supporting. What do you think?

REALISTIC GRANDPA IN FLORIDA

DEAR GRANDPA: I think you are correct. Your grandson is not a self-starter and, thanks to his parents’ “generosity,” he will never find the motivation to become independent. Nothing will change until his parents realize they need to encourage their son to grow up and leave the nest.

***

DEAR ABBY: My middle-aged daughter and her family have been estranged from me for several years, including the last year of her father’s sad battle with dementia. I am told my grandson has been taught to refer to me as “The Devil,” although I don’t know why.

Recently, her husband (my son-in-law) emailed me a list of possessions from my home that they now expect to have. My late husband’s wedding ring was included on the list. What would you say to the demands for items from an adult child with whom you have no relationship?

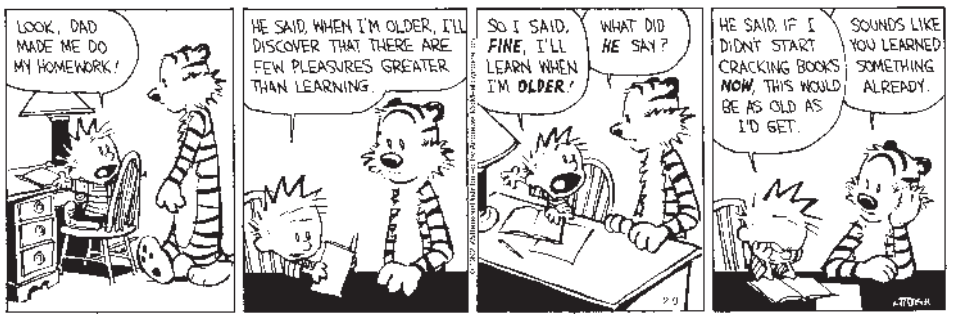
OUT OF THEIR LIVES IN VIRGINIA

DEAR OUT: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. As to what “I” would say in response to these grasping relatives, I wouldn’t dignify their demand with any response at all.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, DAD MADE ME DO MY HOMEWORK!
HE SAID, WHEN I'M OLDER, I'LL DISCOVER THAT THERE ARE FEW PLEASURES GREATER THAN LEARNING.
SO I SAID, FINE, I'LL LEARN WHEN I'M OLDER!
WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE SAID IF I DIDN'T START CRACKING BOOKS NOW, THIS WOULD BE AS OLD AS I'D GET.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU LEARNED SOMETHING ALREADY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ISN'T A SINGLE, RARE COFFEE BEAN KIND OF USELESS?
NOT AT ALL! ONE SNEFAPUTI BEAN IS ALL IT TAKES!
YOU GRIND IT WITH ANY OTHER BEANS.
THAT DOESN'T RUIN THE FLAVOR?
NO. THE SNEFAPUTI WRESTLES THE OTHER FLAVORS INTO SUBMISSION.
HECK OF A BEAN, POPS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

A GIRL IN THE BAR LAST NIGHT INSULTED MY INTELLIGENCE. I'M LOOKING FOR A BOOK TO HELP MY EGO.
ARE YOU WILLING TO CONFRONT HARSH REALITIES?
ABSOLUTELY.
HERE. IT'S CALLED "HOW NOT TO BE AN IDIOT."
DOES IT HAVE PICTURES?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

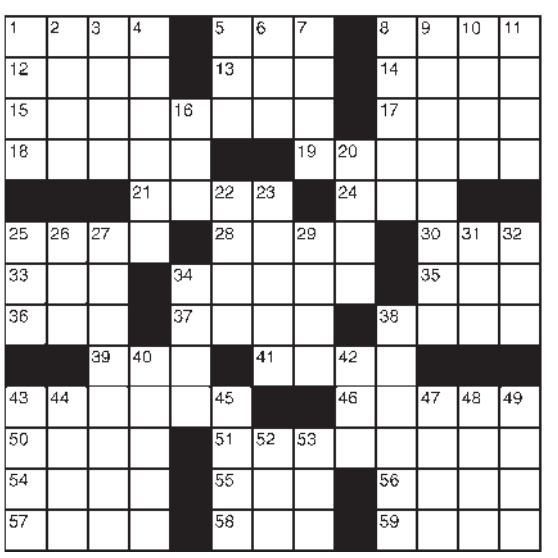
ACROSS
1 Thunder god
5 Pampering, for short
8 Recipe meas.
12 Donated
13 N.J. neighbor
14 Writer Wiesel
15 Isle of Man locale
17 Assess
18 Disgusted
19 Dadaist Duchamp
21 Aspiring atty.'s exam
24 Tibetan bovine
25 Datum
28 Flag Day month
30 Knight's address
33 Fitting rhyme for "spa"
34 Walking sticks
35 Jargon suffix
36 — chi
37 Baby carriage
38 Pack (down)
39 Cagers' gp.
41 Japanese noodles
43 Laud
46 Mob scenes
50 A deadly sin
51 Great Barrier Reef locale
54 Peter Fonda role
55 Hit hard
56 "Frozen" snowman
57 Equipment
58 Coffee vessel
59 Apple variety

DOWN
1 End-of-week letters
2 Tortoise's opponent
3 "Amores" poet
4 Outcome
5 NFL six-pointers
6 Golfer Trevino
7 Chowder morsel
8 — firma
9 Odessa's shoreline
10 Venue
11 Rind
16 Some printers
20 Pro votes
22 Slightly open
23 Albacore and yellowfin
25 — Tuesday
26 Motorist's org.
27 Arm of the Pacific
29 Jules Verne captain
31 Doctrine
32 Workout unit
34 Bookkeepers (Abbr.)
38 Alterations pro
40 Vampire, by nature
42 Bikini top
43 Advertise
44 Hold sway
45 Beige
47 Norway's capital
48 Squad
49 Ump's call
52 Crew tool
53 LBJ's successor

Solution time: 23 mins.

H	A	L	O		J	A	M		C	A	P	P
I	B	E	I		O	V	A		U	B	E	H
M	A	S	H	U	N		I		B	O	N	O
			E	K	G			D	I	O	T	S
S	T	A	R	E			P	S	A	S		
E	R	G	S		C	A	S	H	M	E	R	E
E	Y	E		A	R	N	E	L		G	E	L
H	A	S	H	N	E	S	S		C	A	N	I
			E	D	Y			F	O	N	D	A
A	G	A	S	S	I		A	G	O			
F	L	I	T			T	A	S	H	K	E	N	T
H	J	D	E		O	A	K		E	H	E	E
O	M	A	R		R	A	S		H	A	I	E

Yesterday's answer 2-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyson Houseman, 32; Mia Farrow, 77; Joe Pesci, 79; Carole King, 80.

Happy Birthday: Eliminate what you no longer need, and simplify your life. Aim to ease stress and minimize responsibility. Focus on the people and things that make you happy. Be accountable for your life and how it unfolds, and you will feel better about the future. Don't rely on others when change begins with you. Stop talking and start doing. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 29, 34, 39, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Get involved in something that excites you. Stepping up and being responsible will help you impress someone who can have a positive impact on what you want to pursue. Emotional spending will lead to regret. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Rely on your strengths, skills and experience, and you will be able to make positive changes. Initiate something you want to pursue, and take a proactive approach to self-improvement and staying updated. Alter your course to take advantage of a trend. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Concentrate on what you can do, not on something you can't control. Work hard to protect your reputation and position from those trying to make you look bad. Don't share your ideas prematurely, or someone will take credit for your work. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll be attracted to the obscure. Don't let what others do mesmerize you. You are just as creative as the next person, and selling yourself short isn't in your best interest. Partnerships can work, but equality and balance are required. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A partnership will tempt you, but do a background check to ensure you are dealing with someone legitimate. Listen carefully, and consider how the information you receive will benefit you. Exaggeration and persuasive tactics are apparent. Proceed with caution. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You can have fun without going overboard. Networking can change your life if you take the initiative and promote what you have to offer. Forgo indulgence and any other temptation you encounter. Focus on honesty, integrity and living up to your promises. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take precautions when dealing with contractual, financial or medical issues. Listen carefully and leave nothing to chance. Pay attention to detail, and you'll eliminate worry and stressful situations. Choose compromise and intelligent negotiations over anger and discord. Keep the peace. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Communication is essential if you want to get things done. Reach out, speak your mind and find out who offers support. An opportunity to make your surroundings functional will help diminish negativity and opposition. Personal gain is apparent. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your eye on the ball, and stay in the game. Navigate your way through potential prospects. A savvy dialogue with realistic promises will put you in a cushy position. Trust your instincts, and follow your heart. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You have what it takes to reach your target. Don't waffle when action is favored. Implement the changes that will lift negative influences from your life and liberate you to head in a direction that puts a smile on your face. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take a minimalist approach to how you live your life. Say no to temptation and indulgence. Monitor what others do, and make wise decisions to keep you from harm's way. Be realistic regarding expectations and promises. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Think before you act. Get your facts straight, and be mindful of others. Taking preventive measures will ensure that you remain in control and avoid repercussions. Take the high road, and bask in the positive effect you have on others. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are generous, outgoing and enthusiastic. You are influential and chivalrous

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	1		2		3	6	4
4			7					8
2			4					1
9			1				5	
3	7	8	6			9	1	
1			3			2		
6			8		5			
	3	9		7				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	8	7	6	4	9	1	5	3
5	9	4	1	3	7	8	6	2
3	1	6	8	5	2	4	7	9
4	7	2	5	1	6	9	3	8
9	6	3	7	2	8	5	4	1
1	5	8	3	9	4	6	2	7
7	2	5	9	6	1	3	8	4
6	4	9	2	8	3	7	1	5
8	3	1	4	7	5	2	9	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BROMIDES Solution: 9 letters

B	O	R	A	T	E	P	C	O	S	A	L	T	C	M
D	P	S	C	R	L	G	E	L	U	T	E	G	I	L
C	O	N	N	A	A	C	R	M	R	O	F	O	N	I
A	I	O	N	E	D	D	O	A	O	M	N	L	A	T
Z	L	T	F	C	G	E	I	P	H	S	E	D	G	H
V	L	K	P	A	I	O	D	U	P	C	G	S	R	I
E	E	A	Y	E	E	T	L	N	S	E	O	E	O	U
T	N	C	R	L	L	S	U	A	O	O	R	D	M	M
E	I	A	E	E	U	I	M	E	H	B	T	A	U	U
R	C	E	V	A	N	L	P	U	P	N	I	T	I	I
I	I	S	L	D	O	I	E	E	I	A	N	I	L	N
N	D	I	I	D	R	C	M	K	I	B	R	V	L	A
A	E	U	S	S	I	O	N	I	C	T	R	E	A	T
R	M	M	U	R	A	N	I	U	M	I	N	E	H	I
Y	R	U	C	R	E	M	U	L	A	T	N	A	T	T

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Alkyl, Antiepileptic, Atom, Bonded, Borate, Caesium, Charge, Copper, Elute, Form, Gold, Halogens, Ionic, Ions, Iron, Lead, Lithium, Medicine, Mercury, Mineral, Nickel, Nitrogen, Organic, Phosphorus, Plant, Radius, Salt, Seafood, Sedative, Silicon, Silver, Tantalum, Terbium, Thallium, Therapeutic, Titanium, Uranium, Veterinary, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Human Rights

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 47 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Booker scores 38, NBA-best Suns hang on, beat Bulls

CHICAGO (AP)—Devin Booker got off to a big start while helping Phoenix build a huge lead. The NBA-leading Suns remained in control the rest of the way and came away with yet another win.

Booker scored 38 points, and Phoenix beat the Chicago Bulls 127-124 on Monday night.

The Suns led by as many as 27 points in the third quarter and withstood a push down the stretch to win for the 13th time in 14 games. They improved to 43-10 overall and a league-leading 21-5 on the road.

Booker hit the 30-point mark for the third time in four games. The All-Star made 14 of 23 shots, including five 3-pointers.

"Just playing within the offense," Booker said. "I understand that's how our team is built, there are gonna be opportunities to score at all times. I've been in this system for a minute now. There's no reason to force anything. We have too many talented players out there."

Chris Paul added 19 points and 11 assists. JaVale McGee finished with 16 points and eight rebounds, and Mikal Bridges scored 15.

Chicago's DeMar DeRozan scored 38, coming off a season-high 45-point performance in Sunday's loss to Philadelphia.

Zach LaVine added 32 points after missing the previous two games because of back spasms. Malcolm Hill scored the final eight points, including a layup at the buzzer. But it was easy to see why coach Billy Donovan said the box score "without question" did not reflect how lopsided this one really was.

The Bulls fell into a third-place tie in the Eastern Conference with Cleveland, 1 1/2 games behind Miami and a half-game back of defending NBA champion Milwaukee.

"I thought as the game wore on, we played at a higher and higher and higher standard," Donovan said. "To start the game, it was almost like they forced us to play at a higher level. And we've got to be able to do that ourselves."

The Bulls are missing their two best perimeter defenders with Lonzo Ball and Alex Caruso injured. But Donovan expects more from the players who are available.

Phoenix was rolling along with an 88-61 lead midway through the third after Booker hit a 19-footer, then withstood a push down the stretch by Chicago.

A three-point play by DeRozan cut it to 113-104 with 5:56 left in the game. Jae Crowder came through with a 3 to quiet the crowd and stop the momentum. Deandre Ayton scored on a hook and hit 1 of 2 free throws to make it a 15-point game with 4:42 left.

"With our team, it's just we're always so balanced," Paul said. "We take the best available shot and not just any shot."

The Suns took control in the second quarter while building a 67-49 halftime lead.

Booker scored 22 in the half, going 8 of 10 from the field with three 3-pointers. The Suns went on a 17-3 run early in the second quarter to stretch a five-point lead to 19. And a three-point play by Bridges midway through the quarter bumped the lead to 58-37.

"That's a good team win for us," Paul said. "This is a team that I watch a lot on League Pass. I like their team. They compete. They play hard."

Phoenix coach Monty Williams, in jest, when asked where he sees Billy Donovan's fingerprints on Chicago: "I'm not a forensic scientist." Williams was Donovan's top assistant during the 2015-16 season with Oklahoma City. Donovan has the Bulls contending in the East in his second season coaching them. "I learned a lot about coaching and different ways to pace," Williams said. "You could see that the foundation they laid last year is paying off now."

AP

Phoenix Suns' Devin Booker (1) scores past Chicago Bulls' Javonte Green during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, in Chicago.

Chicago's Coby White had 13 points after missing back-to-back games because of a strained right adductor. Paul, meanwhile, said he's still not used to facing White, who played on the AAU team he sponsors— Team CP3. "Coby is my family," he said. "Out there competing against him, I still don't ever really get used to it." The Bulls had 18 assists compared to 31 for Phoenix.

Warriors 110, Thunder 98

In Oklahoma City, Klay Thompson scored 21 points and Golden State beat Oklahoma City for its ninth straight win.

After the Thunder rallied late in the fourth quarter to cut their deficit to five, Thompson hit two 3-pointers — including one with just over a minute remaining — to put the Warriors up nine.

Stephen Curry added 18 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Warriors, who shot 50% from the field.

Lu Dort scored 26 points and Darius Bazley matched a season high with 20 for Oklahoma City. Josh Giddey added 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists.

Heat 121, Wizards 100

In Washington, Bam Adebayo scored 21 points and Jimmy Butler had 19 as Eastern Conference-leading Miami cruised past Washington.

Miami (35-20) never trailed and won its third straight, improving to 3-2 on a six-game road trip.

Corey Kispert equaled his career high with 20 points for the Wizards (24-29), who lost for the ninth time in 11 games. They are a season-low five games under .500 after opening 10-3.

The Heat shot 18 for 32 (56.3%) from 3-point range while the Wizards were just 7 for 31 (22.6%).

Hornets 101

In Charlotte, N.C., Pascal Siakam had 24 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists as Toronto defeated Charlotte for its sixth straight win.

Gary Trent Jr. scored 24 points, and Fred VanVleet and OG Anunoby each had 20 for the Raptors, who began a stretch of eight of nine games on the road. Scottie Barnes added 15 as Toronto's starters accounted for all but 13 of the team's points.

Miles Bridges scored 25 to lead the Hornets, who lost their fifth consecutive game. LaMelo Ball, named as an All-Star Game replacement a few hours before tipoff, finished with 15 points and nine assists.

Jazz 113, Knicks 104

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell had 32 points, seven rebounds and six assists to lead Utah over New York.

Mitchell also made four steals to help rally the Jazz to their third consecutive victory. Bojan Bogdanovic finished with 20 points. Mike Conley had 18 points and seven assists, and Jordan Clarkson scored 16.

Julius Randle scored 30 points to pace the Knicks. Mitchell Robinson added a season-high 19 points and a career-best 21 rebounds. R.J. Barrett had 23 points, seven rebounds and six assists, but New York lost its third straight.

Ball, Murray to replace Durant, Green in NBA All-Star Game

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlotte Hornets guard LaMelo Ball and San Antonio Spurs guard Dejounte Murray were named to the NBA All-Star Game on Monday as injury replacements for Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant and Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green.

The league also announced that Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, who was selected as a reserve, will replace Durant as a starter.

The 71st NBA All-Star Game is scheduled for Feb. 20 in Cleveland.

This is the first All-Star selection for Ball, last year's Rookie of the Year.

The 20-year-old Ball becomes the fourth-youngest All-Star in NBA history. He is averaging 19.6 points, 7.5 assists, 7.1 rebounds and 1.47 steals in 47 games for Charlotte.

Ball said he was taking a pre-game nap when he received a phone call from general manager Mitch Kupchak.

"I'm pretty much blessed, excited," Ball said. "The season is still going on, the game is going on. I'm just worried about the game."

Hornets coach James Borrego called it "exciting news."

"Happy for Melo, happy for his teammates. I think they need to share this together. They've done this together and I know they're extremely happy for him, proud of him, as am I as his coach," Borrego said. "Thrilled for our organization."

Murray is also a first-time All-Star. The 25-year-old is averaging career highs of 19.6 points, 9.2 assists, 8.4 rebounds and an NBA-leading 2.1 steals in 47 games. His 10 triple-doubles are the second most in the league and a single-season record for the Spurs.

Durant, a 12-time All-Star, will not play because of a sprained medial collateral ligament in his left knee, which has sidelined him for the last 11 games. Green has a lower back injury that has kept him out of action the last 14 games. Green is a four-time All-Star selection.

Durant and LeBron James are the team captains for the game and will select their rosters on Thursday.

Nash says Nets not trading Harden before trade deadline

DENVER (AP) — James Harden is staying put with the Brooklyn Nets.

Coach Steve Nash gave a direct answer when asked before the team's game at Denver on Sunday if the team was definitely not trading the former MVP before Thursday's deadline.

"Yes, that's correct," Nash said. "I've talked to James, he wants to be here. He wants to be here long term as well, so I don't think anything's changed other than noise from the outside.

"James wants to be here, we're building with James and we think we have the best chance to win with James."

Harden has missed two games with a left hamstring injury and been the subject of trade rumors, including a possible deal to send him to Philadelphia for Ben Simmons. Nash said Harden's hamstring is tightness, not a strain, and he has lost strength in the ligament.

"For us, we just don't want to take any chances," Nash said. "We know last year we lost him for an extended period and we want to be conservative and make sure he resumes full strength so there isn't an extended absence."

Harden has missed 10 games in his first full season with Brooklyn.

The Nets entered Sunday's game having lost seven in a row, including a blowout loss at Utah on Friday night.

Analysis: Bengals provide hope, blueprint for lowly teams

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

AP

Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow celebrates with fans after the AFC championship NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.

The Cincinnati Bengals were downright dreadful at this time two years ago.

They were the worst team in the NFL, coming off a 2-14 season with a first-year head coach and facing the franchise-shaping decision of who to take with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft.

Things worked out, well, super.

The Bengals have put those dark days far behind them. Led by coach Zac Taylor, quarterback Joe Burrow and a roster of promising young talent mixed with savvy veterans, the franchise — not-so-affectionately called the "Bungles" for decades — is playing in the Super Bowl for the first time in 33 years.

"I think if you would've told me coming into the league, when I got drafted, that we would be here this year, it would be a shock," said Burrow, the top pick in 2020. "Now, I'm not surprised."

Even if some outside the organization still are.

"We believed from the get-go," Taylor said after the Bengals' 27-24 overtime win at Kansas City in the AFC championship game. "Whether people believed in us or not, we did."

In fairness to the skeptics, changing the narrative in the NFL comes through consistent results over time.

If you win Super Bowl titles or are regularly in position to play deep into the postseason, your franchise is viewed as successful. But if you're often already looking to the draft and the next season by November, you're labeled lowly losers.

The latter is the case for the New York Jets, who have the league's longest active playoff drought at 11 seasons. And for the Jacksonville Jaguars, picking No. 1 overall for the second straight year. And teams such as the Giants, Detroit Lions, Houston Texans and Miami Dolphins — franchises in flux for much of the past few years.

But somewhere in the misery of all that losing, the Bengals provide hope and, more importantly, a model for how things can turn around quickly and what it takes to pull it off. It's far from easy, though: Cincinnati is only the third team to go from the NFL's worst record to the Super Bowl in a span of two years, joining the 2003 Carolina Panthers and 1981 San Francisco 49ers.

"There is a blueprint," Jets coach Robert Saleh told reporters last week at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Alabama. "When you develop within, you draft well, you select the right free agents and you build a culture that you believe in and you stay with continuity and you don't fall into peer pressure with whatever Cincinnati has had to endure over the last couple of years, you end up reaping the benefits of your patience."

The Bengals and their fans certainly are a case study in handling frustration.

"I am so happy for the city of Cincinnati," Taylor said. "They have waited for this moment. They have supported us waiting for this moment."

Cincinnati was mired in mediocrity for so long, the team's previous trip to the Super Bowl in 1989 seemed like fairy tale stuff. Taylor, who's 38 now, was in elementary school then. The Bengals' most recent playoff win until this season came 31 years ago.

A whole new generation of fans was born, grew up and suffered plenty in that time.

Sure, there was a promising stretch under Marvin Lewis from 2009-15 when Cincinnati made the postseason in six out of seven seasons, including five in a row, but the Bengals never won a playoff game.

Next came three losing seasons under Lewis and then a coaching change. Owner and general manager Mike Brown looked to Sean McVay's coaching staff with the Los Angeles Rams — who the Bengals will play next Sunday — and brought in Taylor to lead a turnaround.

Taylor's rough 2-14 first season was followed by the drafting of Burrow, whose rookie campaign was cut short by a knee injury in Week 11. The Bengals finished 4-11-1 — last in the AFC North for the third straight year.

New faces, same ol' results?

Not this time. Cincinnati has been building a solid foundation, starting with the coach and quarterback, and supported by an influx of draft picks and free agents who have been key starters.

■ Left tackle Jonah Williams and linebacker Germaine Pratt were drafted in 2019.

■ Burrow, wide receiver Tee Higgins, linebacker Logan Wilson and right guard Hakeem Adeniji were taken in 2020, when nose tackle D.J. Reader and safety Vonn Bell were among the Bengals' free agent signings.

■ Wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase was reunited with his LSU quarterback when he went in the first round last April. Kicker Evan McPherson was taken in the fifth, a move that drew some criticism but now looks genius with his 12-for-12 postseason on field goals. Defensive end Trey Hendrickson, and cornerbacks Chidobe Awuzie, Eli Apple and Mike Hilton — all starters — were among the free agent haul.

Adding those players to a core that included homegrown vets such as running back Joe Mixon, wide receiver Tyler Boyd, tight end C.J. Uzomah, defensive end Sam Hubbard and safety Jessie Bates has turned out to be a winning mix.

"We have a team that's likable," Brown said in a story posted on the Bengals' website. "It's a young team that plays exciting football."

Getting it all right isn't easy, as the Jets, Jaguars, Giants, Lions, Texans and Dolphins — among others — can attest.

But the Bengals have proven it can be done correctly and quickly. Even if a two-year turnaround like Cincinnati's might be unrealistically fast.

"This is what you work so hard for," Burrow said. "We didn't go into last season saying that we have to have a great offseason to make it to the Super Bowl next year. I think everyone just went into it and knew they had to get better as players so we could be better as a team."

And this might just be the start of something special — with sustained success — for the Bengals.

"It's a great run for us," Brown said. "Everyone in Cincinnati is hoping it continues."

Bold, brash Rams pair flashy superstars with rock-solid core

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No team in the NFL was built like the Los Angeles Rams because nobody else would dare.

No organization shares the Rams' unorthodox values or their depth of faith in themselves. Nobody else manages its high draft picks like Los Angeles does, and no team has navigated the minefield of mid-career veteran acquisition with the Rams' success.

No front office executive has Rams general manager Les Snead's audacity. No coach has shown Sean McVay's ability to blend newly arrived stars into a harmonious team concept year after year.

The Rams know who they are, and they're not changing until the wheels fall off.

"Maybe that's not for everybody, and maybe that's not sustainable," Rams chief operating officer Kevin Demoff said. "Maybe it doesn't work long-term, even though we seem to figure it out every year. But it's working right now."

A team that hasn't made a first-round draft pick since 2016 and probably won't make another until at least 2024 is in the Super Bowl for the second time in four years during a half-decade with five winning seasons and three NFC West titles under McVay. Los Angeles is set up to contend again next season, even if every big-name addition walks away to cash in the rehabilitated value created by stopping off in Hollywood.

Jalen Ramsey, Matthew Stafford, Odell Beckham Jr., Von Miller, Leonard Floyd and Andrew Whitworth will play extensively for the Rams against Cincinnati in Super Bowl 56. They all started their careers elsewhere before joining the Rams, who gladly paid high prices to get them.

Many other expensive veterans already have come and gone. The Rams continue to write the checks and to trade away the draft picks necessary to keep a star-studded team on the field for McVay, who invariably gets these big names to buy in.

Everything works because the Rams have a base on which they can build — and no foundation is stronger than Aaron Donald, one of three St. Louis Rams left on the roster six seasons after their LA homecoming.

"They've got a special way of doing things here," said Miller, their latest prize midseason acquisition. "You see it all throughout the organization. Everything about this place is special."

They're known for their flashy moves, but the Rams also draft effectively and develop relentlessly. In fact, Los Angeles had more players on its roster this season who were drafted by the team than any other club, while their 33 homegrown players — draft picks and undrafted free agents — were the most on any championship game roster.

"People don't think that about us," Demoff said. "They don't remember that we've had the second-most draft picks of any franchise since 2017. They just look at the shiny objects, as Les calls them, the No. 1 picks, and say, 'Well, that's how you build a team.'"

The solid offensive line is bookended by left tackle Whitworth — a free-agent signee from Cincinnati — and right tackle Rob Havenstein, a St. Louis-era draftee. The interior line contains two draft picks — center Brian Allen and left guard David Edwards — along with right guard Austin Corbett, a trade acquisition from Cleveland in 2019.

Stafford's arrival has been well chronicled, but he's distributing the ball to a mix of draft picks and clever pickups at the skill positions. NFL receiving leader Cooper Kupp and Van Jefferson were draft picks, as were tight end Tyler Higbee and running backs Cam Akers and Darrell Henderson. But Beckham salvaged the Rams' receiving corps since arriving in the same week Robert Woods was lost for the season, and trade acquisition Sony Michel carried the Rams' running game while Akers and Henderson were hurt.

The defense is another mix of homegrown talent and big-time additions. It's shakier than the NFL's No. 1-ranked group last year because the Rams lost four starters to free agency and couldn't afford to replace them with big names, instead promoting from within.

Donald is flanked by free-agent signee A'Shawn Robinson and Greg Gaines, whose emergence after Sebastian Joseph-Day's injury was quietly one of the Rams' most important stories of the season. Floyd and Miller are the edges on Los Angeles' vaunted pass rush, while recently returned rookie Ernest Jones and homegrown linebackers Troy Reeder and Travin Howard try to keep up in the middle.

US-born freeskier Gu wins Olympic big air gold for China

BEIJING (AP)—Eileen Gu amassed an army of cynics when she spurned Team USA to represent China at the Beijing Games.

Moments after the biggest run of her life, the 18-year-old freestyle skiing prodigy was asked about her status as a U.S. citizen, her feelings on Peng Shuai and the incessant hate she's received on social media.

"If people don't believe me, if people don't like me, then that's their loss," Gu said. "They're never going to win the Olympics."

Gu did just that, earning the first of what she and her many fans in Beijing hope could be three gold medals by cranking out the first 1620 of her career in her final turn, stunning Tess Ledeux of France to win the Olympic debut of women's freeski big air.

The American-born Gu had never landed the double cork 1620 — a move in which skiers spin 4 1/2 times while rotating twice off-axis while 20-some feet in the air. Not in practice. Not in competition.

Only with the weight of her adopted homeland right there on her shoulders.

AP

Eileen Gu, of China, reacts after winning the women's freestyle skiing big air finals of the 2022 Winter Olympics, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in Beijing.

"I want all the girls to break their boundaries," she said in Chinese, via interpreter. "I want them to think if Eileen can do it, I can do it."

A crowd of spectators gathered spontaneously in front of a big TV screen in Wangfujing, a famed shopping district in central Beijing, on Tuesday morning.

"It's very cheering. She's of Chinese origin and has returned to China. I feel proud of her," said Beijing resident Jiang Yu, 36.

Capacity was limited at 5,000-seat Big Air Shougang — a shuttered steel mill that Beijing has converted into an eerie-yet-serene park, culture hub and sports center. The reaction still told the story.

The "Snow Princess" was ready for her crown.

Gu, whose mother is Chinese, estimates she's spent at least a quarter of her life in China. Her origin story, as she tells it, begins with the time she pitched the idea for China's first slopestyle ski event at age 9 — and won.

Since choosing to side with China in 2019, she has said repeatedly that her goal is to encourage girls and women to take up winter sports — aligning with China's pledge to inspire 300 million to hit the ice or snow.

It's a status not unlike the public mantel Peng has held for years.

Peng, a three-time Olympic tennis player, sat in the stands with IOC President Thomas Bach as Gu cemented her gold. Peng made the rare public appearance a day after saying in a controlled interview that the sexual assault allegations she made against a former high-ranking member of China's ruling Communist Party were "an enormous misunderstanding."

Her responses — delivered in front of a Chinese Olympic official — left unanswered questions about her well-being and what exactly happened.

Asked if she shared international concern about Peng's safety, Gu skirted around the topic, saying she was "really happy" Peng attended and honored that a star from a major sport like tennis came to see "niche sports like freeskiing."

"I'm really grateful that she's, yeah, happy and healthy and out here doing her thing again," Gu said before a room full of Chinese volunteers and media, who hushed when Peng's name came up.

Gu also spun around questions about her status as an American. China does not allow dual citizenship, but it's unclear if the Stanford-bound Gu ever gave up her U.S. passport.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	32	21	.604	—
Toronto	29	23	.558	2½
Brooklyn	29	24	.547	3
Boston	30	25	.545	3
New York	24	30	.444	8½

Southeast Division

Miami	35	20	.636	—
Charlotte	28	27	.509	7
Atlanta	25	28	.472	9
Washington	24	29	.453	10
Orlando	12	43	.218	23

Central Division

Milwaukee	34	21	.618	—
Chicago	33	21	.611	½
Cleveland	33	21	.611	½
Indiana	19	36	.345	15
Detroit	12	41	.226	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	37	18	.673	—
Dallas	31	23	.574	5½
New Orleans	21	32	.396	15
San Antonio	20	34	.370	16½
Houston	15	38	.283	21

Northwest Division

Utah	33	21	.611	—
Denver	29	24	.547	3½
Minnesota	28	25	.528	4½
Portland	21	33	.389	12
Oklahoma City	17	36	.321	15½

Pacific Division

Phoenix	43	10	.811	—
Golden State	41	13	.759	2½
L.A. Clippers	27	28	.491	17
L.A. Lakers	26	28	.481	17½
Sacramento	20	35	.364	24

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bud Light, Hyatt host Super Bowl LVI watch party

Bud Light and Hyatt Regency Saipan will host a Super Bowl LVI watch party, taking place at the Regency Ballroom on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022.

Bud Light and Hyatt Regency Saipan are happy to continue to bring all of the Super Bowl excitement to Saipan football fans. The 2022 watch party will once again provide guests an unbeatable viewing experience with multiple large screens and state-of-the-art sound, coupled with Hyatt's renown food and hospitality. Watch party attendees will be eligible to win over $1,000 in raffle prizes and other Bud Light Super Bowl LVI giveaways.

The Super Bowl LVI watch party at Hyatt Regency Saipan and sponsored by Bud Light costs $25 per ticket and it includes a complimentary beverage, local breakfast buffet, snack food station, lunch buffet, and a raffle ticket.

Doors open at 8am and the first 75 guests will receive a limited-edition Bud Light Super Bowl LVI T-shirt.

There will also be quarterly raffles and squares board with additional support by Triple J Payless SuperFresh.

Tickets can be purchased at Hyatt Regency Saipan (670-234-1234) or Marianas Pacific Distributors (670-234-7113)

Marpac is a responsible and upstanding family-owned business, built on a foundation of service. The company's mission is to provide the best products to its customers, and be a local partner helping to bring communities together, as well as supporting their growth to excellence. ***(PR)***

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Haus, DECM/Pacific Express, and Marianas Dental Clinic.

Organized by the Saipan Centennial Lions Club, in cooperation with the Tan Sui Lin Foundation, the SCLC Basketball League unfurls on Feb. 19.

Earlier, co-oordinator Mikee Guirey said proceeds from the fundraising event will be used for the Lions Club's global causes that include helping curb the prevalence of diabetes and improving the quality of life of those diagnosed with the lifestyle disease.

He also said funds raised will also go to Lion Club's campaign to prevent blindness and improve the quality of life of people who are blind and visually impaired.

Teams interested in joining the SCLC Basketball League, the entry fee is $600 (jerseys not included) and you may contact Mikee Guirey through (670) 989-2632 or Boy Garcia (670) 989-6387 to register or for further details.

Saipan Centennial Lions Club is part of Lions Club International and a chartered club since June 20, 2018 under District 204 Region 2.

SANTOS

From Page 20

acterizes the 25-man lineup, including five alternates, that the SBL board, manager Manny Sablan and coaches Deron Flores and Gary Cruz picked for the national team.

"I know the term sounds a bit disrespectful but in baseball it's not. That's what I told them too. I want a bunch of dirtbags that are gonna come out and be scrappy, mentally tough, never-say-die, and do all for the team. There's no individuals here. And I'm excited for baseball. We have five months to go and I hope we'll have a field by that time," he said.

Santos congratulated the 25 players who made the national team, but also extended his thanks to the nearly 60 who originally showed up for the tryouts.

"These guys too I want to thank them because they're taking a lot time away from family and work, but we have only one goal in mind and that's the gold medal for the CNMI in baseball!"

SBL recently named the 25-man national team that includes five alternates and they are the following: Pat Alepuyo, Dennis Cabrera, Jerald Cabrera, Brian Camacho, Diego Camacho, Juan Iguel, Lamarc Iguel, Ben Jones Jr., Darion Jones, Josh Jones, Byron Kaipat, A.J. Lizama, Jose Lizama, Keoni Lizama, Poland Masaharu Jr., Franko Nakamura, Tyrone Omar, John Peter Sablan, Nokki Saralu, Lorenzo Sebaklim, Nate Smith, Jordan Suel, Anthony Tenorio, Patrick Tenorio, and Shane Yamada.

With 136 expected players, baseball will be played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Baseball Field, which has been waiting for a planned facelift for months.

The CNMI is the defending champions as the Commonwealth topped the competition in the 2019 Apia Mini Games in Samoa.

Aside from the CNMI, teams that will compete in the baseball competition of the 2022 Mini Games that the islands will be hosting for the first time ever include American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia Fiji, Guam, Palau, and the Solomon Islands. Australia and New Zealand may also send their baseball teams to the quadrennial event, but as of January 2022, both have yet to submit their numeral entries to the Mini Games.

Aside from baseball, the other sports that will see action in next year Mini Games are athletics, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, outrigger canoe or va'a, tennis, triathlon, and weightlifting.

NMITA

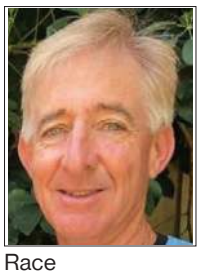
From Page 20

ing the Micro Games to 2023. It was originally set from July 25 to Aug. 5, 2022. No dates have been set for the 2023 quadrennial event.

The original date before it was moved to December 2022—before ultimately pushed back to a year later—comes only a month after the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 was supposed to close in the CNMI.

While he 100% agrees with the Micro Games postponement, Race is now asking does that mean the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands will have to be pushed back a year as well.

"The only problem the Pacific Games has been postponed a year also in the Solomon Islands? So, will have Games this year, next year, and the next, next year. I think that's fine as having two Games in one year is probably a lot to fundraise for and a lot to prepare for so I think it's better to spread them out," he said.



Race

Race earlier named the core of the 2019 Apia, Samoa Pacific Mini Games to the CNMI National Tennis Team for this year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Leading the charge with automatic slots are 2019 Mini Games gold medalists Colin Sinclair, Robbie Schorr, and Carol Lee and Samoa veteran Isabel Herras.

Six other players will compete for the two remaining slots in the men's team and they are Ken Song, Tony Atalig, Colin Ramsey, Bobby Cruz, Luther Lizama, and Morris Villanueva.

Five players, meanwhile, will duke it out for the last two slots in the women's team and they are Asia Raulerson, Tania Tan, Malika Miyawaki, Hye Jin Elliot, and Serin Chung.

A total of 116 players from 16 countries are expected to take part in the tennis competition of this year's Mini Games that will be hosted at the American Memorial Park tennis courts in Garapan and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts in San Antonio.

The 15 countries that have signed up are the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, and the CNMI.

Booker scores 38, NBA-best Suns hang on, beat Bulls

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

US-born freeskier Gu wins Olympic big air gold for China

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Santos: We've got a bunch of dirtbags

MARK RABAGO

Members of the CNMI National Baseball Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Games 2022 are hard at work during a recent batting practice session at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Softball Field at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

There's nothing a very unkempt or unpleasant about the 25 players selected to the CNMI National Baseball Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 this coming June.

But that didn't stop Saipan Baseball League president Jay Santos to refer to them as dirtbags, which he says actually is a term of endearment among baseball players he grew up with playing the sport in Los Angeles.

"There's a term I remember growing up in the States and it's called dirtbags and dirtbags are just a bunch of people that play really tough baseball. Really tough defense and that's what we've got here. We've got a bunch of dirtbags," he said.

Santos hopes that the term doesn't offend anyone, but he believes it clearly char-

See SANTOS on **Page 19**

NMITA: Happy for Micro Games postponement

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president and CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race said while it was doable to send a tennis team to Majuro, he fully supports the postponement of the 2022 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands to 2023.

"I think it was going to be difficult to do two major sports competitions this summer within a month of each other. But we were prepared to do it and we're going to send teams to both competitions. I think it would've been nice but I'm OK to postponing the Micro Games to next year," he said.

Last November, the Marshall Islands, based on recommendations from the National Olympic Committee and the Games Organizing Committee, approved postpon-

See NMITA on **Page 19**

14 teams signed up for SCLC Basketball League

MARK RABAGO

Five-on-five open basketball returns this coming Feb. 15 via the SCLC Basketball League at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The SCLC Basketball League already has 14 teams signed up for its inaugural season at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Co-coordinator Boy Garcia said nine teams are entered in the open division and they are Alii Blue Haus, Vision Insurance, Gravity Team, HBR Construction, DECM Construction, Supertech, Lakay/Island Rent a Car, JTM, and Marianas Dental.

The five teams that will duke it out in the 45-and-over masters division are Napa Auto, Eagle Construction, Blu

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